

## Guerrillas attack Israeli position

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Unidentified guerrillas Wednesday blasted an Israeli military position in South Lebanon with missiles, drawing a retaliatory artillery barrage, security sources said. They said no casualties were reported in the midday exchange across the frontline that separates the Israeli-occupied so-called "security zone" from the rest of the country. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the guerrillas targeted the Sojob outpost on the edge of the central sector of the zone with a number of missiles. The affiliation of the guerrillas was not immediately known. The Israelis retaliated with a mortar and howitzer barrage against Iqum Al Tuffah a traditional stronghold of Hezbollah. That suggested the Israelis suspected the group was behind the attack.

Volume 18 Number 5477

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جordan تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراي

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# Majali reshuffles Cabinet; 14 ministers replaced

Abu Nowar deputy premier; Anani takes information; Tal given higher education portfolio;  
Rima Khalaf first woman minister in nine years; changes mostly affect service-related ministries

By Nermene Murad  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali reshuffled his government Wednesday only a few days before he is to present his Cabinet for a vote of confidence in the Lower House of Parliament. It is the first cabinet in the history of Jordan that includes no deputies from a sitting Parliament.

The reshuffle, in which nine former and new ministers joined the Cabinet and four portfolios changed hands, brought in the first woman minister in over nine years. Rima Khalaf, a senior official at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, was appointed as head of that ministry.

Dr. Majali appointed two deputy prime ministers — former Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar was appointed as deputy premier with no portfolio, and Saeed Al Tal was appointed as deputy premier and minister of higher education.

The new appointees include Taber Hikmat as minister of justice, Hisham Al Khatib as minister of water and irrigation, Adeeb Halasa as minister

of transport, Adel Irshaid as minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs, Fawaz Abu Ghannam as minister of state, Amun Mahmud as minister of culture, Abdul Razzak Ensour as minister of public works.

Jawad Anani, who had served only as minister of state during the past six months was appointed as information minister as well.

Ahmad Al Akaileh, who had been minister of state, was appointed as minister of municipalities and the environment replacing Mahdi Farhan who was assigned to head the Ministry of Agriculture.

The ministers who left Dr. Majali's Cabinet are: Marwan Kamal (agriculture), Mahmoud Samra (culture), Rateb Al Wazani (justice), Khalid Hawari (public works and housing), Bassam Al Saket (trade and industry) and Bassam Kakish (water and irrigation).

The new deputy prime minister and minister of higher education, Dr. Tal, and the minister of justice, Mr. Hikmat, are members of the Upper House (Senate). Three, including Dr. Tal and Mr. Hikmat as well as Dr. Hisham Khatib (water and irrigation)

had served as ministers in previous governments. Six of the new appointees serve as ministers for the first time. They are Ms. Khalaf (trade and industry), Mr. Halasa (transport), Mr. Irshaid (minister of state), Dr. Mahmud (culture) and Dr. Ensour (public works and housing) (see profiles on page 3).

Parliamentary sources Wednesday said it was too early to gauge the reaction of Parliament members to the reshuffle, but added that they expected it to cause "very little change on how deputies will vote during the confidence session."

The premier, who had met with the five different parliamentary blocs in a bid to ensure their support, appeared assured of receiving the required 41-vote majority he needs to get the House's confidence, but most observers believe "it will not be easy sailing" for him.

Dr. Majali's government had come under heavy criticism for a series of steps taken before the Nov. 8 elections and after the results were announced.

Some parliamentarians had faulted the prime minister for



His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and the King's Military Secretary His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad (right) at Wednesday's swearing-in ceremony of six new ministers (Petra photo)

not resigning after holding the elections or bringing in deputies into his government. The decision not to include any members of the Lower House will, for one thing, hurt his chances of receiving strong support from the House, especially since he did not bring in more of the "heavy-weight politicians" into his reshuffled Cabinet, the parliamentary sources said.

"This essentially remains largely a government of technocrats," a former senior offi-

cial told the Jordan Times. "It is still lacking in politicians who would be able to balance the political ramifications of government decisions," added the former official, who had

(Continued on page 10)

## Armed Forces stage festival

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Wednesday attended a ceremony held at the Palace of Culture organised by the cultural department of the Jordanian Armed Forces. Students from the Armed Forces schools presented artistic and folkloric performances. Attending with the King and Queen were His Royal Highness Prince Hashem, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and guests as well as senior army officers.

## Diplomat freed

SANA (AP) — Kidnapped American diplomat Haynes R. Mahoney was freed by his Yemeni captors Wednesday, two days after an earlier agreement to release him collapsed. Mr. Mahoney was released at 10 p.m. (1900 GMT) and en route to Saudi Arabia border, said Interior Minister Yehya Al Mutawakil.

## Christopher due in Egypt Wednesday

CAIRO (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will discuss Middle East peace with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo Dec. 8, Foreign Ministry sources said Wednesday. Mr. Christopher, who will also meet with Foreign Minister Amr Musa, begins a week-long tour of the Middle East on Friday to restart stagnating talks Israel has been holding with Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

## Rafsanjani meets Hamas official

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's president, Hashemi Rafsanjani, met in Tehran Wednesday with a leading member of Hamas, Tehran Television reported. The broadcast quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying Iran was in full support of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories aimed at "liberating Jerusalem." The Hamas official, Musa Abu Marzouk, thanked Iran for its "humanitarian efforts to create harmony and coordination among the militant Palestinian groups and to promote solidarity among them." Mr. Abu Marzouk, who arrived in Tehran Sunday, met earlier Wednesday with the speaker of the Iranian parliament, Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, the television said.

# King urges Arab reconciliation to meet challenges of post-cold war world scene

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday said the Arabs stood to lose in the changing international scene if they did not end the schism caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and reconcile.

Speaking at a graduation ceremony of the Royal Staff and Command College, King Hussein called for the establishment of a new Arab order based on democracy and human rights to interact with the post-cold war international scene.

The King restated his commitment to freedom, respect for human rights, pluralism and democracy.

See full text of the King's speech on page 5

He reiterated a call for the formation of a non-political Muslim body representing the seven sects of the faith to administer the Islamic holy shrine in East Jerusalem.

The Monarch also reaffirmed his quest for a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and support for the landmark peace accord signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Sept. 13.

King Hussein, who traces his origins to the Prophet Muhammad, said he would not give up his historic and religious rights to Jerusalem, which houses the third holiest shrine in Islam.

Addressing the graduates, who included several officers from the armies of the Gulf states, King Hussein appealed for Arab reconciliation.

"The last few years have

witnessed the collapse of regimes, the tearing apart of countries, civil wars as well as famine... our nation has got to appreciate these changes and pragmatically deal with them," King Hussein said.

He said the Arabs should aim for "freedom from backwardness, oppression and plundering."

"Our nation will remain in-

capable of confronting these challenges if its leaders do not work for rebuilding the new Arab order in a new spirit, bypassing the differences, divisions, and estrangements which have beset inter-Arab relations in the past," he said.

"Everyone must overlook the wounds left over by the Gulf war, as well as various splits and fissures," said King Hussein.

This can only materialise if we take a brotherly and forgiving attitude and pore over the challenges of the future, which obligates us to be united, arm in arm, so that our nation can have a dignified presence in this new age," he added.

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## U.N. report says Iraq sanctions could be lifted

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq rapidly to begin implementation of the surveillance system, the report said.

In a related matter, members of the U.N. commission in Manama said experts would travel to Iraq on Thursday to test surveillance cameras set up at missile test sites near Baghdad.

The joint report by the U.N. commission supervising Iraqi disarmament and the Baghdad government was obtained by AFP Wednesday.

It said failure to reach agreement on monitoring had been the principal obstacle to lifting the oil embargo imposed on Iraq by the international organisation.

Iraq's agreement on Friday to allow U.N. supervised monitoring of its arms programme has met the requirements of both the U.N. special commission on Iraqi disarmament and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the report said.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the special commission, said recently a six-month probation period would be needed to test the surveillance system before sanctions on Iraq could be lifted.

The surveillance systems are aimed at ensuring that Baghdad does not resume development of ballistic or chemical weapons or mass destruction.

The report released Wednesday is the result of talks between an Iraqi delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz and U.N. officials. The talks will resume in Baghdad or at U.N. headquarters next month "in order to maintain the momentum towards the objective," the report said.

Experts are due to travel to

# Israeli killed in latest twist to spiralling violence

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (Agencies) — Palestinian hardliners trying to derail the peace process shot dead an Israeli nursery teacher and wounded three companions Wednesday, triggering an angry backlash from Jewish settlers.

Three Palestinians in a car opened fire on the group with M-16 and Kalashnikov rifles after the Israeli's own car broke down near the town of Al Bireh, settlers' spokesman Shai Bazak said.

Shalva Uzana, a 24-year-old settler from Jerusalem, died and three settlers were wounded, including a religious student who was in serious condition.

The Izzedine Al Qassam armed wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) said it carried out the attack to avenge the army's killing last week of its leader Imad Akeil.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine also claimed responsibility in Damascus.

Both groups have vowed to torpedo the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deal for autonomy in Gaza and Jericho, which calls for the army's withdrawal beginning on Dec. 13.

Mr. Bazak, spokesman for the Council of Jewish communities said settlers would block all roads around settlements in the occupied territories early Thursday in protest at the attack.

They also planned a string of demonstrations and would launch a campaign for a public inquiry into the security aspects of the Israel-PLO peace deal.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed that his government would press ahead with the autonomy deal, due to go into effect on Dec. 13.

"Every attack like this one lowers Israeli confidence" in implementation of the first phase of Palestinian autonomy, Mr. Rabin told Israeli Radio.

"But the implementation of the accord must be pursued, in parallel with the war against terrorism," he said from Brussels.

"The army has been beefed up and is ready to defend settlers."

Nine Israelis and 27 Palestinians have been killed since the autonomy accord was signed.

Army chief of staff General Ehud Barak ordered reinforcements into the territories, while Gen. Nehamia Tamari, military commander for the West Bank, met settlers and appealed for them not to take revenge against Palestinians.

An anonymous caller speaking Arabic told an international news agency Hamas carried out the shooting, which followed the worst day of clashes in Gaza since the peace deal was signed in September.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called the attack painful but said even after "unbearable murders, we never lost our cool."

After the killing, Israelis stopped an Arab car near the Arab city of Nablus in the West Bank, ordered the driver out, and pushed the empty

# Schism grows in PLO leadership

TUNIS (Agencies) — Two senior officials scuttled a Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) emergency meeting Wednesday on stalled autonomy negotiations with Israel to protest PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's handling of the talks and failure to respond to criticism.

PLO sources said Mahmoud Abbas and Yasser Abed Rabbo, two of Mr. Arafat's closest aides, boycotted PLO Executive Committee emergency sessions Wednesday.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the AP the boycott helped deny Mr. Arafat a quorum for the meetings he scheduled after he came under fire over his leadership style and his handling of negotiations with Israel.

The meetings were to plan a new negotiations strategy and review preparations for the Palestinian takeover in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho from the Israeli begin withdrawals.

PLO officials were making intensive efforts Wednesday to try to convince Mr. Abbas and Mr. Abed Rabbo to change their minds.

Only six members of the normally 18-member Executive Committee are in Tunis for the emergency sessions. Six resigned to protest the signing of the PLO-Israel accord. Two other members, Suleiman Najjar and Mahmoud Ismail, announced earlier they would boycott the sessions. One member is in New York for a U.N. ceremony and another is absent due to reported illness.

The boycott by Mr. Najjar and Mr. Ismail was expected, but the refusal of Mr. Abbas and Mr. Abed Rabbo to join the sessions underscored the deepening rift within the PLO leadership.

Mr. Abbas signed the peace agreement with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Washington on Sept. 13. Mr. Abed Rabbo is a longtime Arafat associate and leader of new Palestinian Democratic Party.

The two men declined to take telephone calls Wednesday or answer any questions on their boycott.

PLO sources said Mr. Abbas is receiving considerable support from Ahmed Qurei, who is the Fatah Central Committee member and head of the PLO Economic Department who negotiated the self-rule pact with the Israelis.

Mr. Abbas and Mr. Qurei want Mr. Arafat to abandon his own direct supervision and appoint a committee to oversee the self-rule negotiations.

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PLO officials have complained that Mr. Arafat has devoted most of his time to the foreign trips and has refused to delegate any of his authority to other PLO leaders so they could deal with stalled talks and the volatile situation in the occupied territories.

One senior PLO official privately criticised Mr. Arafat for hobnobbing with Western European royalty and heads of state while the talks are going badly.

Mr. Arafat called the emergency sessions on the

(Continued on page 5)

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## UAE celebrates 22 years of prosperity

**ABU DHABI (AFP)** — When seven former British colonies in the Gulf merged into the United Arab Emirates (UAE) 22 years ago, observers thought it was just another experiment to add to numerous other short-lived Arab mergers.

But despite setbacks it held together, and took further steps toward full integration, becoming the longest and most successful experiment in unity in modern Arab history.

However, more work is needed to ensure the UAE's survival, observers point out.

"The UAE is an example for other Arab states seeking a merger," a Western diplomat said. "It has passed a lot of test. But it is still run by an interim constitution. It is not a major problem, but I think a permanent constitution will make people feel more secure about their federation."

Just a few days after Britain ended more than a century of colonialism in the Arabian Peninsula, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, the ruler of the strongest and largest emirate, Abu Dhabi, started shuttling between the seven sheikhdoms to persuade their rulers to merge with his emirate.

His promises of prosperity for the poorer emirates played a crucial factor in producing quick results.

Almost a year later, five of them agreed to the plan, and within a few more months the last emir, Ras Al Khaimah, joined in.

Born in Abu Dhabi around 1917, Sheikh Zayed was elected president of the UAE



Sheikh Zayed Al Nahayan

when the federation was established on Dec. 2. He is still in office, and has used the massive oil wealth of his emirate to keep the union alive.

Huge cash flows turned the poor oasis villages into modern and prosperous cities and made their per capita income one of the highest in the world.

From less than \$1 billion in 1971, the gross domestic product (GDP) of Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah, Ajman, Fujairah and Umm Al Quwain leapt to more than \$10 billion in 1992, even though they have no oil.

The funds are channelled through the federal budget, which is financed 80 per cent by Abu Dhabi.

The rest is provided by the seventh emir, Dubai, another oil producer which played a key role in creating the federation.

According to official reports, more than \$107 billion have been invested in development projects since the merger, pushing the total GDP of the UAE up to \$33

billion in 1992, from less than \$5 billion dollars in 1971.

"The UAE has many factors that help it to survive, unlike our previous unity experiences," an Arab diplomat said.

"The most important thing is that the people are convinced of its feasibility," he said. "Geographical proximity, religion, language and the similar beduin traditions are also important."

Like other Arab mergers, the UAE has faced several crises. However, it has managed to pull through.

The most serious problem came in 1987, when the ruler of Sharjah, Sheikh Sultan Ben Mohammad Al Qassimi, was briefly ousted by his younger brother, Abdul Aziz.

Sheikh Sultan, backed by Dubai, warned that the federation would break up unless he returned to power.

A series of meetings between the seven rulers ended in an agreement to bring him back and appoint his brother crown prince.

Diplomats believe the UAE union was strengthened by an island dispute between Iran and the emirates of Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah.

When it erupted again last year, Abu Dhabi told Iran the dispute was no longer with those emirates, but with the whole UAE.

The streets of the UAE were bathed in light this week, and more than one million flags were hoisted to mark the anniversary of the merger, which will be crowned by a military parade by the sea.

## Residents of 'security zone' look for peace to clear their names

By Hala Boncompagni

Agence France Presse

KHIAM, Lebanon — Muslims and Christians inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon hope peace in the Middle East will absolve them of charges that they collaborated with the Jewish state.

Trapped between Israeli lines and the anti-Israeli resistance, the zone's 170,000 inhabitants live in a bunker-like atmosphere virtually cut off from the rest of Lebanon, with little or no assistance from the central government.

Around 2,000 of them, mostly Christians, cross into northern Israel daily to work as labourers, in restaurants and hotels or factories, earning a minimum monthly wage of \$300.

But few dare leave the zone for other parts of Lebanon for fear of reprisals. A resident was murdered Friday by gunmen when he visited relatives north of the zone.

"I hardly ever go north because I don't want anyone to point an accusing finger at me," said a young girl who works in a socks factory in Israel.

The girl declined to be named, as did most residents interviewed in the "security zone" who believe they are wrongly accused of collaborating with Israel.

"What other choice do we have? We must earn a living

somewhere," she said.

On Saturday Lebanese judicial authorities reported that a former Christian militia chief, Etienne Sacre, was tried in absentia for alleged collaboration.

Mr. Sacre told AFP he was proud of his relations with Israel.

"We should see as heroes," insisted Riad Abdullah, a senior security official and Muslim Shiite leader in the hill-top town of Khiam on the border with Israel.

"For a long time we have been considered agents of Israel. But the truth is we kept the land and the people in their homes despite the occupation," he said.

Antoine Lahd, a retired Lebanese army general and head of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA), said he expected that a solution "to preserve the dignity of the SLA and those working with Israel" would be found as part of a Lebanese-Israeli peace treaty.

"Accusations of collaboration will lose their meaning in time of peace," Gen. Lahd insisted.

Greek Catholic Monsignor Antoine Hayek said President Elias Hrawi had promised him the Lebanese army would deploy "with an iron fist" when peace is achieved to protect the people.

"There will be accounts to be settled but that's a

natural result of wars," the cleric acknowledged.

Israel has occupied parts of South Lebanon since 1976 but it has kept a permanent presence in the 800-square-kilometre zone since 1985, which it controls along with the 3,000-strong SLA force.

Mr. Abdullah criticised the anti-Israeli resistance, particularly the Iranian-financed Shiite Hezbollah movement. "They are making southerners pay bills we shouldn't be paying" by launching attacks on Israel.

These attacks are an "indirect way of telling the Israelis: 'you're welcome to stay in the zone,'" he added.

The Shiite community is particularly caught in the dilemma, Mr. Abdullah said. "On the one hand, the Shiites are at the forefront of the anti-Israeli attacks and on the other hand they are paying the price with their blood."

"We should not be made to account for being residents here (security zone)."

Mr. Abdullah slammed the authorities for praising Hezbollah's determination to fight Israel and for ignoring the plight of the people living under Israeli occupation.

"Here in Khiam we have a police station and a Lebanese flag flying on top of the building. The government's presence stops here," he said.

"There will be accounts to be settled but that's a

slow as a result of Israeli constraints and because U.N. peacekeepers were spending less.

"The field officers based in Nahariya used to come here for their shopping, but over the past year Israel has been restricting the amount of things they can buy," Ms. Yousef explained.

The general austerity measures affecting the United Nations and the international economic recession have also taken their toll on business here, he said.

UNIFIL soldiers have been travelling to other parts of Lebanon over the past five months, since the deployment of Lebanese army troops north of the "security zone."

But the Yousefs are not ready to give up. "We were born here and we will continue to live here. We're bound to win," Mr. Yousef said.

Tufic Gaby, a former militiaman who trained in Israel, runs the "Moulin Rouge" with permission from the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, which controls the "security zone" along with Israeli forces.

"There's no monkey business here. We're safe and relaxed," said Pinky, a Filipina who runs a few months ago earned a living as a housemaid in Beirut.

His sister Hoda Yousef, a 30-year-old

housewife, complained that business was

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Tufic Gaby, a former militiaman who trained in Israel, runs the "Moulin Rouge"

## Profiles of six new ministers



Fawaz Abul Ghannam — Minister of State

Born in Madaba in 1953, Mr. Abul Ghannam holds a degree in law from Baghdad University 1956 and a doctorate in law from Leipzig University of Germany 1978. He served as consultant at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, secretary general of the Ministry of Information (1967-1970), director general of the Tourism Authority, governor of Maan and Karak, chargé d'affaires at the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad. Damascus and Algeria, Ambassador to Egypt, Morocco and Greece, secretary-general at the Ministry of Information and adviser at the Prime Ministry office 1985 and turning to practising law.



Adel Alkhalid — Minister of Industry and Trade

Mr. Alkhalid was born in the West Bank in 1959 and studied in Jordan schools, received a degree in law from Cairo University in 1978, practised law for a long time and then became head of the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry in August 1991. He is member of the Jordanian Committee for the Restoration of the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.



Dr. Rima Khalaf — Minister of Environment

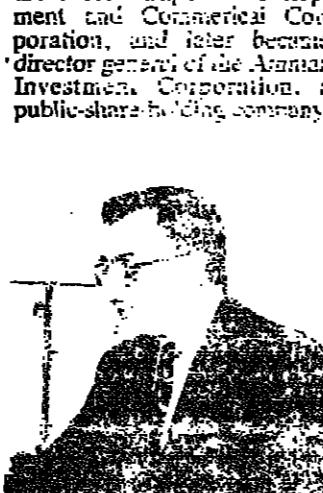
Mrs. Khalaf was born in Kuwait in 1953 and completed her school of law at Amman before going to American University of Beirut, where she graduated in 1978 with a degree in economics. She went to American State University in the USA, where she obtained a master's degree and a doctorate in international economics in 1984.

Between 1983 and 1991, she worked for the Ministry of Planning and between 1986 and 1991 she served as head of the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Corporation, and later became director general of the Amman Investment Corporation, a public-shareholding company.



Adeeb Halasa — Minister of Transport

Mr. Halasa born in 1932 in Karak. He received his elementary and secondary education from the Bishop's School and he obtained degree in law from Cairo University in 1956 and a master's degree in law in 1970. He served as a judge in 1957 until now and was a member in the court of cassation.



Amal Al-Masri — Minister of Culture

Dr. Al-Masri was born in 1938, he holds a degree in history from Al-Shams University, of Egypt, masters in history from Georgetown University and a doctorate in history in 1972.

He worked for the University of Kuwait and later became president of the Jordan University for Women in 1991.

## Experts look for substitutes for ozone-depleting materials

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) opened a two-day meeting in Amman Wednesday by calling on the countries of the Western Asia region to cooperate with U.N. agencies in order to curb the use of materials that emit gases considered harmful to the ozone layer.

Industries have been employing materials, especially in refrigeration and air conditioning processes, that tend to cause further depletion of the ozone layer and contribute to global warming, said ESCWA Executive Secretary Sabah Bakaji at the opening of the meeting held at Philadelphia Hotel in Amman.

Several U.N. agencies are currently allocating funds and providing technical expertise to help Third World countries utilise substitutes for these hazardous materials, and regional cooperation in this area would serve to complement the U.N. efforts, said Dr. Bakaji.

The meeting convened in Amman today (Thursday) would lay the foundation for regional cooperation aimed at protecting the earth's atmosphere and the human race and could pave the ground for a second stage which is drawing an integrated working plan for the employment of "clean and safe substances" in place of harmful ones, Dr. Bakaji maintained.

For its part, he said,

ESCW plans to cooperate with other U.N. agencies and with various countries in 1994 to deal with this problem.

The meeting was opened by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Mohammad Alabdullah Farhan who said that Jordan continues to cooperate closely with international organisations towards the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and other U.N. programmes to curtail the use of ozone-depleting materials.

According to Dr. Farhan, the Jordanian National Strategy for the Environment, enacted last year, provides for a reduction in the use of such materials, and a special unit has been set up at the Department of the Environment to handle this matter.

A special fund created to provide assistance to the Third World to deal with this problem, has allocated \$1.5 million to help Jordan find substitutes for these materials, he said.

According to Dr. Farhan, the Montreal Protocol contains chemicals including chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are causing a hole in the layer of ozone gas which protects the earth from ultraviolet radiation.

Scientific research will lead to the development of new materials and technologies to reduce damage to the ozone layer.

It may also affect forests and fishing exports.

ESCW is also taking part in the meeting will confer papers related to the production and trade policies of ozone-depleting substances, experience in it will tell the use of these substances and a working plan for using substitutes.

The second meeting, entitled "Expert Group Meeting on Substitutes for Ozone-Depleting Materials," was organised in cooperation with UNEP and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Jordan was among the coun-

tries to sign the Montreal Protocol and the first to do so, as well as the subsequent agreements attached to the protocol, added Dr. Farhan.

According to the minister, a survey conducted on the industries using ozone-depleting materials showed that Jordan has been consuming 20 tonnes of such materials.

A special fund created to provide assistance to the Third World to deal with this problem, has allocated \$1.5 million to help Jordan find substitutes for these materials, he said.

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1974

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MHAMMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

### No deputies, same chance

AS EXPECTED the new government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali broke old traditions and excluded deputies from its ranks. Previous governments had been a composite of members of the Lower House of Parliament and politicians and technocrats, but no effort was made this time to have that sort of political mix.

There are obviously advantages and disadvantages to incorporating members of the legislature in the executive branch. In strict terms, the separation of the three branches of government has always been the mainstay of some well-established democracies, like the U.S. On the other hand, some other parliamentary democracies have reconciled themselves to the principle of forming governments by the party that achieves the highest score during national elections.

In Jordan, where it is not necessary to appoint a prime minister from the largest political party in Parliament, it would seem acceptable to deviate from the traditional parliamentary democratic practices since the rationale behind the formation of cabinets from parliamentarians is predicated on the rule of thumb that political parties that win general elections would be called upon to form a Cabinet. This is not being the case in Jordan, it would not seem to be anathema to democracy to give all Cabinet portfolios to non-parliamentarians.

Still more important that the inclusion or the exclusion of parliamentarians from the Cabinet is the task that lies ahead of the newly formed government. The agenda of the executive branch is heavily laden with thorny issues ranging from the peace process and the prospects of a peace accord with Israel to pressing local subjects that are closer to the heart and attention of Jordanians. The region is on the threshold of new developments on every conceivable level that call for vision and political will. The team of ministers that will normally be assembled for this purpose would have more than their usual share of responsibility. These awesome burdens awaiting the Cabinet members would require political heavy weights rather than anybody else.

Yet it remains to be seen whether the new Cabinet would prove to be fully effective. Meanwhile we have to give them the benefit of the doubt and extend every possible support, including criticism, to enable them to do their job. There will come a day when a broader based government may need to be formed since the decisions that await the country would call for a national coalition government that enjoys wide grassroots support. For now, however, the reshuffled government of Dr. Majali deserves its chance.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

TODAY BEGINS the countdown for the Dec. 13 deadline of the completion of Israeli forces withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho to pave the ground for the autonomy rule in Palestinian lands, said Ahmad al Misheh, a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. But the writer said that the two elements are working against the so-called Oslo deal, which was sealed by Israel and the PLO in Washington last September. The first is the mutiny of the Jewish settlers who refuse to abandon their settlements and are fighting off their government's agreement with the Palestinians, and the other is the revival of the intifada and the Palestinian youth's revolt against the PLO leadership's orders which ban all military or anti-Israeli activities and resistance in the two areas, according to the writer. He said that while the Zionist settlers are determined to resist any move to oust them to implement the Oslo deal this month, the Palestinian youths are determined to carry on the fight against the Israeli presence altogether and determined to guarantee the release of all the Palestinian detainees from Israeli jails. The two elements are working against the implementation of the Oslo deal and are adamant in their extremist stand holding fast to their ideology which, the writer said, will make the Oslo deal impossible to implement. The only way to defuse the situation, said the writer, is to end the illegal presence of Jewish settlements on Arab land.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour tackled the question of lack of drugs in government hospitals. A doctor in the Princess Basma Hospital has just reported that the Health Ministry's warehouses and the Jordanian markets have no sufficient anaesthetics for surgery, a report which the health minister himself echoed in a telephone conversation with the call-in radio programme Tuesday morning, said Mohammad Daoud. The writer said that the government ought to introduce measures aimed at breaking the monopoly of certain drug importers over essential materials and stop their blackmail and ensure sufficient stocks for hospitals at all times. The writer said the Health Ministry can end the monopoly by importing these basic materials in bulk and also ensuring other medical supplies to health centres and hospitals of the private and public sector.

## We have the potential to change mediocrity to excellence

By Ahmad Y. Majali

If I were to pinpoint the one problem which most severely hinders our society's development and progress, I would say, it is mediocrity. Put simply, "mediocrity" is lack of distinction or excellence in performance. The term, as Webster's New World Dictionary informs us, refers to five interconnected "qualities" or "states" which it arranges from the least positive to the most negative: "neither very good nor very bad"; "ordinary"; "average"; "not good enough"; "inferior." I am using the word here in all of these senses.

I was talking with a friend of mine the other day. As usual, we exchanged views on a variety of "hot" issues, including Parliament, democracy, the peace process, the post-war Middle East and, naturally, the present and future Jordan. In the heat of discussion on the latter question, my friend, who is fond of confrontational statements and absolutes, said: "Name me one distinguished singer in this country, one outstanding poet or novelist, one T.V. star, one excellent journalist, one original researcher, one respectable tennis player, one exceptional teacher, one competent mechanic or electrician, one reliable meteorologist, one economist, one physicist, one literary critic, one administrator, etc." The catalogue ran much longer. The point he wanted to illustrate was that mediocrity is prevalent everywhere in our society.

To some extent, my friend's argument is unfair. For one thing, it is exaggerated. One can name not one teacher, one literary critic, one administrator, one mother, one father, and even one singer, but many. For another, it is deliberately selective. We may not have an impressive table-tennis player but we have several impressive basketball and soccer players.

Furthermore, if the media or the concerned societal establishments fail to reveal and highlight talented individuals, this does not mean that distinction is non-existent. On the whole, my friend is right. The claim he is making is essentially valid: the percentage of excellence in our society is small indeed, and the performance of the majority is either "average" or "inferior." One cannot but agree.

There are many causes for mediocrity, among which the following are the most salient: First, the individuals are not brought up to value competence and efficiency of performance in either their daily tasks or job assignments — despite the many colourful slogans we continually repeat. To be sure, our families place a great deal of emphasis on education and on scholastic achievement. Parents in our society are generally impressive, even exemplary, in their support of their children throughout school and university days. By contrast, little encouragement (if any) is given to a working son or daughter. Rarely do parents sit down and discuss with their sons and daughters the quality of their achievement at work. The matter does not seem to be important.

Education also, which is supposed to prepare the person for a career, is seen as an end rather than a means. Hence it is most often too theoretical and idealistic to contribute tangibly to the person's work skills or ethics. Our student is little prepared for the real world and one cannot but blame the family, the school and the university.

Second, the various establishments and institutions at which individuals in our society work do not encourage distinction. First of all, they do not hire (or fire) on the basis of the individual's merits. Most, especially government establishments, employ people with-

out seriously interviewing, examining or evaluating them. All they care about (if indeed they do) is their specialty. In addition, a person finds himself, upon employment in an often unhealthy atmosphere. There is almost a total absence of work ethics; most employees do not have a sense of joy, fulfillment or pride in what they do. A job is just a job — i.e. something you do absent-mindedly and uncreatively and to which you devote the bare-minimum effort. The concept of "career" itself is almost entirely missing in our culture. Furthermore, senior members set a bad example to junior and incoming colleagues; instead of nourishing their (the latter's) initial feeling of enthusiasm, they subvert and kill it. A recent graduate of Yarmouk, who now teaches at one of our public schools, tells me senior teachers laugh at anybody who takes the teaching profession seriously. "What are you trying to accomplish? Students are too dumb and nobody cares or appreciates. Put your head among the heads of others, and forget it." Sadly, such a negative attitude is quite widespread in our society.

Third, leadership positions are not filled with enough care. Those who are appointed as supervisors/directors of teams, of sections, of departments and of the establishments themselves are chosen either on the basis of seniority or through personal connections. Rarely is a person appointed because he/she is deserving; unfortunately, many deserving persons are too shy to seek positions themselves.

Such a practice (choice based on seniority or connections) is at best haphazard (if the senior individual happens to be competent, the choice is a blessing; if not, it is a curse) and at worst destructive. The harm done through a bad choice is twofold. A)

mediocre chairman, director or section head does a mediocre job. Whatever work has to go through his/her office will be carried out slowly, inefficiently and poorly. B) Such a chairman, director or head will promote mediocrity in his/her institution (deliberately or unwittingly) by alienating creative employees and attracting his/her likes.

The solution, as I see it, is two-part. First, the long-term remedy to mediocrity lies in our educational institutions. The family, the school and the university should link themselves more directly to the various establishments in which real work is done. Daily life in the former institutions should mirror as closely as possible daily life in the latter establishments. Thus, a student of economics should be treated as an economist, a student of English as an English teacher, a student of physics as either a physics teacher or a physicist, etc. Otherwise, what is the use of education if it does not train one to be an expert in his own field?

Second, and more urgently, we should exercise extra-care in choosing the various societal leaders. It is they who shall raise or advance, obstruct or demolish. Those we appoint should be people with the right attitude, energy, ability and vision. I realize that this is easier said than done. But it can be done. We must base our selection of leaders on their previous experience and achievement. A little investigation about a person reveals a great deal.

I firmly believe that Jordan has the potential to excel. The large number of educated citizens, its liberal-democratic political system, its humble (but reliable) natural resources and (above all) the wisdom of its top leadership are all factors conducive to distinction. Mediocrity is a monster. Let's kill it, before it kills us.

## LETTERS Writers vs. true democracy

To the Editor,

ARTICLES written by the press that are editorial in nature tend to have a purpose in mind. They are either information or analytical, presenting in the latter case a viewpoint based upon certain facts. I would, therefore, like to comment about two articles that appeared in the Jordan Times' edition of Nov. 30. I assume the purpose was in both cases to illustrate the fundamentally undemocratic nature of the government through its past policies vis-a-vis the dissolution of Parliament and the change in the Election Law, culminating in the adoption of the Speech from the Throne to Parliament as the government's policy statement.

The first article was "Majali's quest for confidence vote based on the Speech from Throne: Constitutionally correct, but democratically flawed," which was written by Nermene Murad. The writer's analysis attempts to establish the above tenuous link by interpreting certain facts and citing a host of "critics, observers, analysts, well-placed officials" to support these interpretations. The following facts are relevant:

1) Mr. Masri's government was formed on 19-6-91 while Parliament was in recess. It requested and obtained a vote of confidence based upon its policy statement to an extra-ordinary session of Parliament that convened between 4-7-91 and 22-8-91. Since there was no formal convening of Parliament in an ordinary session and no Speech from the Throne, Mr. Masri had to present his own policy statement. No precedent to be ignored.

2) Sharif Zeid's government was formed on 21-10-91 also while Parliament was in recess. It requested and obtained a vote of confidence based upon the Speech from the Throne, at the opening of the 10th Ordinary Session of Parliament on 1-12-91. This was the only valid precedent used in the case of Dr. Majali's government.

3) The writer may recall that H.M. The King is the Head of the Executive Branch, and he delegates his executive function to the prime minister and Council of Ministers. The basis or the norm is that the head of the executive branch, as in the U.K., USA and elsewhere, delivers the policy statement on behalf of His/Her government. In cases where there is no formal opening of the legislature requiring His/Her presence, the prime minister delivers the same policy statement.

4) The writer quotes Article 54/3 of the Constitution but unfortunately fails to actually read it correctly. "If the Chamber of Deputies is not in session at the time, or stands dissolved, the Speech from the Throne shall be considered to be a statement of policy for the purpose of this article." The word "shall" and its Arabic equivalent in the original text precludes the use of any other document. The Higher Council of Interpretation confirmed this fact.

5) In adversely comparing the '93 elections with those conducted in '89, the writer has conveniently forgotten the praise that the '93 elections earned from various parties, local, regional and world press and observers alike, including His Majesty the King himself. Individual incidents of miscounting/duplication of cards, etc., were rare and cannot be indicative of deliberate government policy of interference in the election process. Such incidents including those that occurred similarly in the '89 elections are being dealt with by the relevant law courts and respective parliamentary committees.

6) The relevance of the inclusion of deputies in Sharif Zeid's government making the case of adopting the Speech from the Throne more-or-less applicable, escapes me!

7) The Constitution of The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is the overall legal umbrella that governs the conduct of the executive, legislative and legal branches, their authorities and responsibilities of individual citizens. It cannot be considered in parts nor can one conveniently ignore amendments irrespective of the fact that they have been made during the period of martial law.

The second article that I am referring to here is "Parliament, confidence and the Karak restaurant lunch menu: The View From Fourth Circle," written by Rami G. Khouri. This writer in attempting to establish the same linkage, tries a more conciliatory approach. He encourages Dr. Majali, through a process of compliments and admonitions, to reverse this serious and disturbing trend in the nation's democratisation process by the simple act of presenting his own policy statement.

1) Regarding Mr. Khouri's perceived difficulty in debating the Speech from the Throne. The following comments may be relevant:

a) The speech is the King's Speech and the government is the King's Government. Why is it difficult to debate the speech while it seems to be relatively simple for every Tom, Dick or Harry to criticise, deride and generally denigrate the King's Government?

b) Parliament's primary role in any democracy is to transform the wishes of the people into broad strategies and policies. They then, in cooperation with the government, translate them into more specific programmes and enact laws accordingly. The government is then charged with implementing such laws monitored by Parliament. The Speech from the Throne contains those broad strategies that are intended to guide both Parliament and government in the coming four years. It also contains those specific programmes that are a continuation of previously established policies.

c) If Parliament is dissatisfied with the government's performance, democratic vibrations and impulses, its colour, taste or smell, it may vote it out of office at any time.

2) It seems that Mr. Khouri was not impressed with Dr. Majali's family/political culture background as it relates to the lack of vibrant democratic practices; as if other individuals in this nation have an alternative background of which we are all unaware. The writer's presumption that Dr. Majali needs to accept his advice to transition to a genuine political leader is an issue to be decided by Parliament and the Jordanian people, in which his 40 years of past public service and achievements and his current vision will attest to.

3) Mr. Khouri's reference to the Karak lunch menu being acceptable to Parliament as a policy statement does not speak well of Mr. Khouri's view of Parliament's credibility. His comparing the King speech with a lunch menu can also be considered similarly. This supposition is the real issue in determining the quality of our political values and credibility of our political system. If he has such a low opinion of Parliament's judgement, this whole debate about the validity of the use of the Speech from the Throne and democracy is irrelevant anyway.

What is really at stake here? Is it a question of Dr. Majali photocopying the Speech from the Throne, erasing all references relating to the King and then sending it under a covering letter to Parliament as his own policy statement? The real issue is our understanding and practice of true democracy rather than "letter of democracy."

What is being asked of the government is to defy the constitution by providing a separate policy statement, or by amending or adding to, the Speech from the Throne, merely to satisfy the writer's own interpretation of democracy.

A parallel may be drawn here in the West's own interpretation of democracy being used to justify Mr. Yeltsin's recent unconstitutional dissolution of the Russian parliament. Which course of action furthers the real development of true democracy?

Abia Asfour,  
Amman.



are faced by a crime committed with a handgun.

Murder has become the number one cause of death for African American males between the ages of 16 to 34 years old. Murder is second as the cause of death for all U.S. males in that age group. And if one adds together the murders and suicides in a single year, the extent of the slaughter becomes clear. In 1990, 37,155 Americans were killed with guns in acts of crime and suicide. That is 4,000 more Americans killed than during the entire Korean war.

The murder rate in the U.S. is staggeringly high and much higher than any other community in the world. For example, in 1990 guns used in criminal acts murdered: 10,567 Americans, 10 Australians, 22 British, 37 Japanese, 68 Canadians.

The U.S. totals vividly point to the magnitude of the problem of violence in the United States.

It is, therefore, no real surprise that fear of crime and violence and the need for personal security have emerged as priority issues for many U.S. voters. The issue of crime is one reason why many Democrats lost elections to Republicans in November of 1993. Some Americans feel that the Democrats are less tough on crime and criminals than are Republicans.

It may have been in an effort to convince Congress and the public that he is a "different kind of Democrat" that led President Clinton to support the very strong anti-crime bill that has just passed Congress. The legislation, one of the toughest anti-crime bills to become law, extends the death penalty for 47 crimes, establishes federal crime status for

60 criminal acts, sets higher mandatory prison sentences for a wide-range of offenses, and provides increased funding to place an additional 50,000 police officers on U.S. city streets.

Liberals were upset with some of these aspects of the bill that made illegal the sale of 19 types of semi-automatic weapons (there are currently 1,000,000 such firearms in the United States) and create a mandatory five-day waiting period before one is able to purchase a handgun (there are currently 200,000,000 handguns owned by Americans).

As the head of an anti-crime lobby group said, "Americans are fed up with the carnage, and they are demanding action." The new crime bill may be a response to this voter outrage. Will it have an impact in reducing crime? Will it make Ahmed in Cleveland feel more secure? Will it remove guns both from the gangs and the grocers? These are the questions waiting to be answered.

But what is clear is that the issues of crime and violence are now at the centre of the political debate and will remain there until the frightening escalation of killings and robberies is under control.

Dec. 2, 1993

Published Every Thursday

A

## Theatre? What theatre? Start with children

By Mohammad Masharga

"A common public misconception has it that children's theatre is easier to organise and present than a theatre for adults. Perhaps this misconception explains the scarcity of good plays for adults and the rush by amateur playwrights to attempt to present plays for children."

With these words, a director who specialises in children's plays, Fathi Abdul Rahman, opened the first seminar on children's theatre which was held on the sidelines of the Second Jordanian Children's Theatre Festival from Nov. 28 to Dec. 5. He said Jordanian libraries lack plays for children and lack studies and research work related to children's theatre. Indeed, he noted, literary criticism is at its lowest level at the moment in a country which lacks the specialised theatre institution and a standing theatrical group with sufficient qualified actors. Jordan neither have a theatre house for such a group nor funds to finance theatre activities perhaps due to the lack of a specific plan or policy in this regard, noted Abdul Rahman, who stressed that individual initiatives are the only prevailing works dominating theatre work in Jordan.

Abdul Rahman was in fact describing the nature of works presented during the opening sessions of the festival because he saw in them as works which he described as far poorer in quality than those presented in the first festival.

The three plays presented at the start of the festival were based on Arab and international texts with highly

educational and moral themes, but their presentation and the drama was semi-naive, lacking the warmth or the appropriate professional skills and the basic elements of a children's theatre — the joy, the colours, the movement and good music.

The festival has clearly revealed the urgent need for a national strategy for children's arts and culture and the training of cadres to be involved in children's theatre in acting, directing, decor and music. It also showed that there was need for those involved to link their children's theatre with child psychology and modern education trends.

### AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

It is regrettable to say that two years have elapsed since the initiation of the Jordanian Children's Theatre Festival, yet nothing has been done to meet the essential requirements and the basic conditions for a good children's theatre for the benefit of children.

Educationists and specialists in child psychology believe that children develop different potentials and mental capabilities at different stages of their growth, especially those under five years of age who can benefit from theatre and plays to direct their own activities and stimulate their imagination.

These educationists and specialists believe that tales of gnomes and angels and mermaids are especially fascinating to eight-year-olds, while stories of magic and wonderlands as well as heroic feats appeal to nine to 12-year-old children — the stage when children start

moving from the world of fantasy to the world of reality. Children aged 12 to 16 are undergoing a real physiological change and are in need of plays that are more realistic and with educational objectives.

The Jordanian Higher National Committee in charge of the festival would do well by stipulating that participants in the coming festivals should define the age group of children targeted by their work as well as the educational values and objectives sought by the playwrights.

One example of the haphazard situation that prevailed in this year's festival can be found in the play *Nawras Tale* which was directed by Samah Qusous.

It is true that the stage was decked with bright clothes, colour lights and beautiful decor, but the play and presentation were lacking the deep philosophical contents which the director wanted to convey to the audience of children. As a result, her work was poor and tedious to the children who busied themselves with other diversions while the play was still in progress on the stage.

The same can be said about *Rihlat Haz (A Voyage Of Luck)*, directed by Firas Al Masri.

With his inexperienced and naive plan of direction, Masri failed to convey the theme and the value of the play to the children despite the strenuous efforts exerted by some of the professional actors. Disregard of the age group of children targeted for the kind of work rendered the play a total failure.

In conclusion, we ask how can we bring life to the children's theatre in Jordan?

This question was echoed in the halls of the Royal Cultural Centre where the festival was held, especially after the higher committee had realised the magnitude of the crisis, prompting it to call a meeting for critics and specialists in educational drama and children's theatre.

At the meeting, there was a unanimous consensus that improvement of the children's theatre can only begin at the level of the children's kindergartens and primary schools.

Mrs. Samar Dudin, a specialist in drama in education, said the problem essentially lies with the educational system in Jordan. "This system does not provide for general arts, drama in education and other forms of creativity among the students, and so they remain deprived of the basic driving element in helping them to deal with various challenges in their future lives.

Under the prevailing system children normally are quiet as the teacher speaks, with the result that none of them learn anything because of this ineffective practice which does not help them to acquire knowledge.

Mrs. Dudin said that condoning the absence of the necessary infrastructure of arts within the educational system reflects lack of awareness and knowledge about the importance of creative work for children and lack of the sense of change and talented work.

According to Mrs. Dudin, theatre in the concept of education does not represent a mere set of historic characters, nor is it a review of social or political subject, but rather it is a very sensitive series of processes through which the children can learn and interact with the play with the help of educationists and qualified teachers.

## Icon in a box lures the flocks to Syrian convent

By Assem Abdul-Mohsen  
Reuter

**SAYDANAYA, Syria** — The nuns at this imposing mediaeval convent near Damascus safely keep their most famous icon, Our Lady Of Saydanaya, hidden away in a box.

The last time the icon was taken from its silver-encrusted chest in 1925 "there were storms and unusual phenomena and it was decided to put it back," one of the nuns told Reuters.

That does not deter thousands of Muslims and Christians alike who flock to the convent 50 kilometres northeast of the Syrian capital.

The Orthodox Patriarchal Convent, a magnificent

edifice overlooking the village of Saydanaya, "ranks second in importance to Jerusalem as a holy visiting place of pilgrimage in the Orient," Abbess Katherine Abi Haidar told Reuters.

Pilgrims speak of healing miracles of Our Lady Of Saydanaya, barren women say that after a visit they have conceived men say they are cured of lingering illnesses.

Its fame is based on an icon of the Holy Virgin said to be one of four original icons painted by St. Luke the Evangelist.

In the ancient Syriac language, the icon is called the "Shaboura" or the "Shagoura" which means the illustrious or celebrated.

Today it is not shown publicly but nuns and visitors

kneel in front of a small window through which its silver cover can be viewed.

Apart from Europeans and Americans, many of the visitors are Syrians and Lebanese. Others include Egyptians, Sudanese, and Gulf Arabs — mainly Muslims attracted by the convent's fame or who feel they have been touched by the miracles of the Virgin.

The pilgrimage reaches its peak in September every year on the birthday of the Holy Virgin, but despite the convent's renown, the origin of its name is shrouded in myth.

One version says it is a Syriac word of two parts — "Sayda" meaning "lady" and "naya" meaning "our". Another version has it

that "Seid" means "hunting" and "Dnaya" means "places", thus "hunting places", which would fit with the legend of how the convent was built.

It says that the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I, who also built Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, was camped in the desert with his army on his way to attack Persia when he and his troops ran out of water.

The emperor saw at a distance a beautiful gazelle which he decided to hunt but he gave chase for a long distance without success and finally tired.

The gazelle stopped on a rocky hillside, then bolted towards a spring of sweet water before Justinian could shoot it.

Another version has it

that "Seid" means "hunting" and "Dnaya" means "places", thus "hunting places", which would fit with the legend of how the convent was built.

It says that the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I, who also built Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, was camped in the desert with his army on his way to attack Persia when he and his troops ran out of water.

The gazelle appeared to Justinian later in a dream telling him how to build the church. It is said construction of a monastery was based on the plans envisioned in the dream while the convent was built around 547 A.D.

The first nun was the emperor's sister, Theodora, Abbess Abi Haidar said. There are now about 50 nuns who enter the convent at age 13 and spend seven years wearing a blue uni-

form, before being consecrated and allowed to put on the convent's traditional black garment.

The Shaqoura Icon was brought to the convent by a pilgrim who had been asked to buy an icon of the Holy Virgin on his travels. On his way back, his caravan was attacked by beasts and bandits, but by invoking the name of the Holy Virgin and by holding up the icon to his attackers, the pilgrim was spared.

Abbess Abi Haidar said among the latest miracles was the "oozing of an oil-like fluid" from the silver box encasing the icon. This has been going on occasionally since 1963.

"The miracles of the Holy Virgin are endless," she added.

They are our only objects that are alive with people, giving us an inkling of their occupations," archaeologist Lamia Gailani said of the stone seals engraved with pictures, writing or special signs.

Archaeologists say the seals, whose designs include friezes of animals and plants as well as scenes drawn from daily life or mythology. Are among the most prized treasures of the Iraq Museum in Baghdad.

Dr. Gailani said the seals used in the ancient world as signatures or title deeds, were invented in Mesopotamia, the area between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers where the earliest evidence of organised agricultural society has been unearthed.

"Eighty-five per cent of all seals in the world were made here," she added.

Fifty-one seals, some made of semi-precious stone, were found at Tell Suleimeh during excavations before it was submerged by the huge Hamrin Dam in the mid-1980s.

Varying in length from one to three inches (two to seven cms), experts say the seals show remarkable craftsmanship but their value extends far beyond artistic merit.

"Suleimeh seals depict us earliest scenes of agricultural activity in those very ancient days," Dr. Gailani said.

Some are engraved with animals ploughing fields, farmers harvesting crops or priests engaged in mysterious ceremonies.

One of them shows two animals dragging a plough while a person pushes it. A second person is planting seeds, a third holds an animal and a fourth rides one of the beasts.

"It would cost a lot more to house these people in city apartments and social institutions, and to provide municipal day-care for their children," he said.

But many Christianites have mixed feelings about "normalisation", its effects on autonomy and on the marijuana trade which police want to stamp out.

The Christianites kicked out the gang and the hard drug trade in 1980.

"Why not normalise the rest of society instead, let it enjoy our kind of self-government. Why can't we be allowed to enjoy a leisurely marijuana joint in the sun without being harassed by police," said Mr. Soerensen.

The 1990s have seen the start of peaceful co-existence between the free town and the Defence Ministry which agreed to let the

## Ancient seals give glimpse of Mesopotamian past

By Leon Barkho  
Reuter

cylindrical and would be rolled on mud or clay jars before they were fired. The seal left an impression on the baked jars, serving as the trademark for the person who had filled the vessel with wine, wheat, barley, dates or even minerals.

Seals also were used to make impressions on bricks, thus identifying the owner of a house. When he moved, the new owner would replace the signature brick with one of his own.

Dr. Gailani, 55, whose doctorate in Mesopotamian seals and many publications have made her an authority, does her field investigation in Iraq and publishes her findings in Britain.

Most outstanding for Dr. Gailani is a seal representing a harvest festival with goddess Ninil, the grain patron, enthroned within her shrine.

A person bends over a heap of hay while the goddess holds a plant with one hand and drinks with the other through a tube from a vessel.

In front of her are several worshippers in a boat travelling to attend the harvest festival. More worshippers below carry bundles and two attendants pile up the offerings.

Dr. Gailani holds the seals in her hand with great care. "Each would fetch at least \$100,000 if auctioned abroad," she said.

Several of the Suleimeh seals depict fights between gods, heroes and animals. One represents the water god EA receiving his special attendant, the two-faced Usmu.

Another seal, made of lapis lazuli, bears a large cuneiform inscription. "It is the only seal providing information on the owner. He is Apil-Kin, the Pashishu (high priest) of the Lady of Batir, the region of Suleimeh," said Dr. Gailani.

The Suleimeh seals also provide evidence of contact between Mesopotamia and an ancient civilisation in the Indus Valley.

"This one depicts two bulls with a fish and a bird with incisions on the neck and body, comparable to the stamp seals of the Indus Valley from such sites as Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa," Dr. Gailani said of one piece.

"It might be possible that there was a resident Indian citizen conducting business in Mesopotamia who required a cylinder seal with his own identifying marks," she said.

## Driving in Russia: A (side) walk on the wild side

By Julia Rubin

The Associated Press  
MOSCOW — The writer Nikolai Gogol noticed it 150 years ago. Comparing all of Russia to speeding horses, he asked, "what Russian doesn't like fast driving?"

Some things never change, they just get worse.

For a glimpse of the chaos and class struggle of the new Russia, don't bother visiting the burned-out parliament building. Just take a drive down the crowded, potholed streets of Moscow.

Russia's rush to commerce has turned the sleepy boulevards of Soviet times into a honking, smog-bel-

ching free-for-all.

Legions of ordinary Russians in rusted Zhigulis, Ladas and Volgas enter the fray each day as gypsy-cab drivers — as a crosstown fare of a few thousand rubles (a few dollars) pays far more than most hourly wages.

Flatbed trucks with loads of bouncing cement blocks press their 5-foot-high (1.5-metre) tires against neighbouring cars in what passes for "merging."

And cutting through them all with the boldness of ambulances are the BMW and Mercedes Sedans of the newly rich. In St. Petersburg, traffic cops haven't kept up.

have had to ban the use of sirens and flashing lights by private cars.

"This is what happens when society changes too fast," said Vadim Sokolov, an engineer-turned-gypsy-cab driver, waving his hand in disgust at the creeping traffic around his lime-green Zhiguli on Moscow's major garden ring road.

If more people were working instead of driving around doing nothing, this country would be a lot better off," said Mr. Sokolov, who quit his steady job to try to make more money.

Traffic planners, road crews and driving schools haven't kept up.

"Social security clients... the young with no jobs, the homeless — they all come here to enjoy the peaceful green setting and the magical mixture of village and urban life," says a Christianite guide leaflet.

"They cannot find these things where they live, in dark apartments and dreary institutions where nobody has time to talk and a person enjoying a beer on a park bench is frowned upon," it says.

"Christiania is a paradise for losers."

A visitor to Christiania is struck by the heaps of junk and rubbish, the smell of

traffic accidents are up. In the first six months of this year, there were 613 people killed on Moscow roads, up 10.8 per cent from the same period last year. And 1992 was itself a record year for traffic deaths in the city, with 1,360 over 12 months.

And forget seat belts. Despite a buckle-up law, some drivers take offense if you reach for the belt. Others have loosened it so it coils in your lap and slides off your shoulder at turns.

Headlights, too, are considered as useless as old rifle notes.

"The glare could get in someone's eyes and cause an accident," explained

Misha, another engineer who moonlights as a chauffeur, as he slammed into yet another pothole hidden in the dark.

Then there is Russia's passion for changing the Soviet-era names of streets and squares, rendering many maps obsolete.

Of course there are traffic police. They generally stand in the street and wave cars over apparently at random to check "documents." Some drivers say they pay a fine and never see a ticket.

But not all is bleak. Parking meters and toll booths have yet to appear. And then, there's always the subway.

"It would cost a lot more to house these people in city apartments and social institutions, and to provide municipal day-care for their children," he said.

But many Christianites have mixed feelings about "normalisation", its effects on autonomy and on the marijuana trade which police want to stamp out.

The Christianites kicked out the gang and the hard drug trade in 1980.

Christiania does not believe in representative democracy through majority decisions. It is ruled through open meetings at local house, area and com-

## Danish hippie colony thrives as 'paradise for losers'

By Lars Foyen

&lt;p

## Curing the keyboard phobia

By Anne-Claude Elias

Most of those who have been using Personal Computers for a while dream of better machines and programmes. They do not however dream of more powerful nor faster systems anymore. They prefer to wish for friendly easier to use computers.

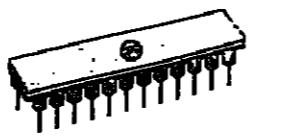
Even those with an IQ rate high above the 120 border have some day or another fearfully approached the dreadful keyboard. Except for the few who have learnt how to tame a typewriter, the vast majority of PC users still consider having to use the standard keyboard as a major handicap. A PC operator doesn't necessarily have to be a certified typist.

Enter the new generation of personal information processors that seem as an early foray in the future. Two major manufacturers of computers and electronics are now offering a small, hand held computer that can take one's handwriting as an input of letters, signs and drawings. The unit looks like a programmable calculator and weighs about half a kilogramme.

The system comes with a small plastic pen with a relatively soft tip that does not scratch the surface of the touch-screen. No need to enter data through a keyboard; that anyway does not exist. The user can "write" a text by moving the pen on the touch-screen. After a short pause the hand-written text is converted into typed letters and is clearly displayed, leaving room for eventual corrections. Drawing is done in the same way.

Having used the system for a couple of hours, I found it working perfectly well and needed only to do two or three minor corrections in a text of almost 200 words. OCR (Optical Characters Recognition) is not a new feature in computing, but it is the first time it is made available on small machines, with such flexibility and ease of use. The pen-system serves as a text entry device and as a mouse for drawing and selecting menus. It is fast, accurate and reliable.

## chip talk



Having been past the innovative data entry system, one browses through the other, numerous facilities of the machine. It provides a telephone and address directory, a note book, a calendar, a diary, a calculator (all those goodies mentioned in last week's Chip Talk). This is in addition to a world clock, a multi-lingual translator, a file manager and a couple of unavoidable games. Overall the software is impressive and very complete.

For its very first launch in the market, the computer (or gadget?) is unquestionably a success. Nevertheless, certain characteristics remain to be improved before it becomes everybody's second or even first PC.

The monochrome, LCD screen has poor contrast and average resolution. Staring at it in low light is like fighting to see a ghost. The one MB (one million characters) storage capacity, though technically a tour-de-force in such a small device, is just not enough to store important data. The optional flash disk memory cards, each with one and a half MB can help but more capacity would still be needed. The speed of the processor will disappoint the users of real size 386 or 486 computers.

In spite of the above remarks, with its infra red data transmission to similar units, a serial port to communicate with PCs and a printer port, the new machine is a technological breakthrough with astonishing power, facilities and practicality.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaib

### TANTALIZING FACTS

- \* Newton was 25 when he first made his most important scientific discoveries.
- \* Keats was 25 when he died.
- \* Romulus was 20 when he founded Rome.
- \* Goethe was 12 when he wrote his best plays.
- \* Victor Hugo was less than 20 when he got several prizes for writing a tragedy.
- \* Documented copies from the treaties concluded between the U.S. and other countries are usually preserved in special files in anti-fire stores inside the Foreign Ministry in Washington.
- \* Grimm's fairy tales were not written by the Grimm brothers but were really narrated by female villagers and then compiled in a book form.
- \* In Puerto Rico there is a kind of palm trees which are wholly covered with thorns so as to protect the fruit from rats and other animals to reach it.

### WOMEN — THE GOOD & THE BAD

- To feel, to love, to suffer, to devote herself, will always be the test of the life of woman.
- The more we cultivate reason in women, the more unattractive they become.
- A beautiful woman by her smile draws tears from many a man.
- Women are silver dishes into which we put golden apples.
- Women wear so much false hair nowadays that it is hard to tell which is which.
- The tongue of woman is her sword, and she takes care not to let it rust.
- All women are to some extent poets in imagination, angels in heart, and diplomats in mind.

### HUMOUR

Hitchcock, the renowned movie director, was famous for his fondness of food. Once he was invited to a party where a small amount of food was served.

"Hitchcock ate in great relish but he felt he was still hungry."

"He drank coffee after supper. Then his host turned to him and said, 'I hope you'll come again to share us supper.'

The guest promptly replied, "That's very kind of you. What about bringing the food just now?"

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A Britisher entered a department store in Switzerland to buy a piece of soap for shaving. It seemed that the salesman was German who hates the British. So he slyly said: "I neither sell nor use the German soap, but I use the British polish for my shoes."

The Britisher coldly retorted: "Ah, this is because I see your shoes look much brighter than your face!"

\*\*\*\*\*

A curious dog put its head into a small jar but couldn't drag it out. So its owners went to have a philosopher's advice and ask him about the best way of keeping the dog's head as well as the jar safe.

The philosopher, after a short silence, said, "I recommend to kill the dog first and then break the jar."

### YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

**HAIR:** Riches and fine clothes: (hair falling over face) a coming event will cause displeasure; (Having hair cut) losses in business (becoming bald) great danger.

**HAMMER:** Triumph over difficulties.

**HAPPINESS:** A prelude of doubt and difficulty.

**HARVEST:** Hopes will not come to fruition.

**HAWK:** A happy omen — success in life.

**HEAD:** Good omen — health and money.

**HOSPITAL:** Misery, poverty, wounds.

**HUNCHBACK:** A troubled life, with many ups and downs.

**HORSESHOE:** (Seeing one) A journey; (finding one) good luck.

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

**PIDGIN:** A lingua franca that is not the mother tongue of anyone using it and that has a simplified grammar and restricted, often polyglot, vocabulary. An example is the pidgin English used in Far Eastern ports, principally for trading between the English and Chinese. The basic English vocabulary had Malay, Chinese and Portuguese elements.

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**GINGIVITIS:** Inflammation of the gums, characterised by red, swollen, spongy gums that bleed easily. It may be acute, chronic, or recurrent. Chronic gingivitis usually results from bacteria, although other factors, such as poor dentition, prolonged use of the drug Phenyltoin, Vitamin C deficiency, or diabetes, may also contribute to it. If left untreated gingivitis can lead to periodontitis.

### PUZZLES

#### (A) MAKING A CENTURY:

At various times our readers have been asked to make 100 by using all the digits 1-9 and inserting suitable arithmetical signs.

This time only the digits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are used and addition and subtraction signs only employed. Can you score a century under these conditions?

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**(B) ANALINKS**  
Six creatures of various kinds are illustrated below.

They have to be paired in such a way that the letters making their combined names can be re-arranged to make a word; that is, three words in all have to be made. How would you pair the creatures?



## C'est la vie

By E. Yaghi

I have a rendezvous with death  
At some disputed barricade,  
When spring comes back with rustling shade  
And apple-blossoms fill the air —  
I have a rendezvous with death...

From *I Have A Rendezvous With Death* by Alan Seeger

For some time now, he had heard stories about the war. The successes of great battles filled his imagination until finally, his mind and entire being were consumed with nothing else but the excitement of fighting. He must enlist, he decided; it was the only courageous thing to do. To sit around the house like a female was cowardly and unpatriotic, so without his parents' knowledge or permission, he signed up for combat early one morning and returned home triumphant in a dark blue uniform. By the time he reached his house, it was dusk and he found his parents sitting at the dinner table finishing off the meal that his mother took hours to prepare. A look of shock crossed her countenance but his father just frowned and after he cleared his throat, said in a hoarse voice: "Well, son, it seems that you finally went and did it eh? I guess you're man now since you've made a man's decision and will face the consequences. My best advice is to do honour to your uniform. Come and eat!"

His mother, however, shouted: "What are you saying? He doesn't know what being a man means! He lied about his age! He's not even 18 yet. He doesn't know what he's doing! You must stop him, please!"

Her son could see her face twist into a dreadful fit of sorrow and anger, for, yes, he had betrayed her after she had pleaded with him not to join the army and he had promised her that he would at least wait until he was older. Yet, here he was, a testimony of his treachery. His father silenced the mother with, "that's enough. I will hear no more. He's made a decision, now he must bide by it."

So, the youth sat down at the table and gulped down his meal in the piercing silence of a mother's anguish. But he ignored her face smeared with spots of tears and concentrated on his daring and how impressed his friends and classmates had been with his army suit when he passed by to bid them farewell.

When he kissed his mother good-bye the day of his departure, he thought her over-emotional and silly. She's weak because she's a woman, he thought and tried to concentrate on the pending excitement of joining the battle and defeating the enemy. But, she grabbed his arm before he turned away and said, "listen here, son, I want you to know that I love you more than anything in the world. Of course I'm upset because I can't bear to lose you. Maybe someday you will understand. Until that time comes, take care of yourself and come back to me safe and in one piece. Now, may God bless you!"

**JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW**

### Thursday, Dec. 2

#### 8:30 Family Matters

Baker's Dozen

Karl is turning his home kitchen into a bee-hive. A new recipe for dessert is to be tried.

#### 9:10 Reasonable Doubts

Sister, Can You Spare A Dime?

Maggie receives an unexpected visitor. A brother who brings trouble with him.

#### 10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Pack-in' It In

Starring: Richard Benjamin and Paula Prentiss

A light comedy about an American family that runs from the busy city life to an isolated area in the woods. Would the family find peace of mind there?

### Friday, Dec. 3

#### 8:30 E.N.G.

Final Cut

It takes Adam two more mistakes in reporting two hot stories to prove his search for "sensational news" is unprofessional.

#### 9:30 Faces And Places

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 The Alien Years

#### 11:10 Mind Your Language

The Examination

Mr. Brown's students know all about cheating in class. They prove experts in the field when another teacher comes to supervise the examination.

### Saturday, Dec. 4

#### 8:30 The Fanelli Boys

More visitors from abroad are here to stay with the Fanellis. This time it's Dominique, Father Angelo's brother.

#### 9:00 Da Beat's On

#### 9:30 Perspective

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 Feature Film — The Woman In Black

Starring: Adrian Rawlins

A routine legal assignment turns into a horrific nightmare for a lawyer. His encounters with the mysterious figure, known as The Woman In Black changes the course of his life.

### Sunday, Dec. 5

#### 8:30 You Bet Your Life

This is your weekly date with laughter and entertainment. Host Bill Cosby gives away the Grand Prize of \$10,000 to the winning contestant.

#### 9:10 Thirtysomething

#### Guns & Roses

Nancy's cancer is progressing... with negative effects on her physically and emotionally. However, she tries to cope with the fact that her days are limited.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 The Men Who Killed Kennedy

#### The Forces Of Darkness

After twenty-five years of secrecy, shrouding the case of Who Killed J.F. Kennedy

Kennedy, the truth come out: A mafia gang in Marseilles is behind the assassination of Kennedy.

#### 11:10 The Golden Palace

#### Can't Stand Losing You

Blanche is again meddling in other people's affairs; this time it's Roland. Without him knowing, she invites his old girlfriend, Tresha, to the Golden Palace.

#### 9:10 The House Of Elliott

The two sister's ongoing arguments over how to run the business get deeper, causing a rift between them... Evie thinks it's time to move out.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 The Guilty

A case of blackmail where the parties involved, find out that the relationship between them is more complicated than assumed.

#### 11:10 The Sleeping Beauty

#### The Spell

You are invited to the balloon performance of The Sleeping Beauty, performed by the Leningrad Ballet Company.

### Tuesday, Dec. 7

#### 8:30 Night Court

#### Dan's Operation

Dan is admitted to hospital for an ulcer treatment; but the hospital is definitely not the place to be.

#### 9:10 Brand New Life

#### Private School

Christy goes to a private school.

#### 10:00 News In English

A documentary about the life of Vivien Leigh, her upbringing in England where she starred in many famous motion pictures, including *Gone With The Wind*, before dying in 1967. The host on the programme is actress Jessica Lange.

### Wednesday, Dec. 8

#### 8:30 Too Close For Comfort

#### 'The Cosmic Cow Vs The Oval Office

## After stellar year, Hollywood plans to be even busier

By Francois Robert  
Agence France Presse

**LOS ANGELES** — Boosted by this year's blockbusters, Hollywood studios have a slew of movies in the pipeline to cash in on strong domestic and foreign ticket sales.

Disney Studios, associated with Touchstone Pictures and Hollywood Pictures, have announced they will release 40 films in 1994, up from 26 this year and 23 last year.

Warner Brothers will release between 30 and 35 movies, and maybe even more, said spokeswoman Juliana Olinka. The studio brought out 25 in 1993 and 14 in 1992.

Paramount says it will re-

lease 15 movies next year, one more than in 1993. "We hope to have more," a studio spokesman said. "I think the demand is higher. It's also the end of the recession in the United States."

"We have had a very good year with a lot of blockbusters," he added.

Warner Brothers' box office revenue shot up from \$602 million in 1991 to \$876 million. The company expects to bring in more than \$1 billion this year.

Indeed, 1993 has been the year of the blockbuster. Warner Brothers' *The Fugitive* with Harrison Ford sold \$179 million in tickets in this country.

Universal Studios' *Jurassic Park*, the dinosaur thrill-

er directed by Steven Spielberg, set a box office record by bringing in more than \$704 million, including foreign ticket sales, beating the \$701 million that Spielberg's *E.T.* has earned.

Video cassette rentals and sales are also keeping the cash registers ringing. U.S. film studios released 448 movies in 1991 and 484 in 1992, according to the Motion Picture Association of America. No figures are available for this year.

Among the movies expected out in 1994 are a fair number of sequels, remakes, and at least two traditional westerns.

Twentieth Century Fox is making *True Lies*, a remake of the French film *La Total*, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, it is due out in July.

The westerns that will compete for movie-goers' attention are *Wyatt Earp* starring Kevin Costner and *Maverick* with Mel Gibson.

Eddie Murphy is starring in *Beverly Hills Cop III* and filming begins in September for *Batman III*.

At entertainment data

here, analyst Phil Garfinkel is expecting a sharp increase in the number of Hollywood movies released in the next five years, not only because ticket sales are up but because mid-size studios like MGM are beefing up the number of movies they make.

MGM, where Frank Mancuso replaced Alan Ladd as president over the summer, has 25 movies in the works for next year. It made 11 in 1993.

"We expect foreign growth to continue to be much more dynamic than domestic growth," said analyst Dave Davis of Paul Kagan Associates Inc. Ticket sales abroad brought in 45 per cent of the \$14.6 billion in revenues from Hollywood films. That proportion is expected to rise to more than 50 per cent in 2000.



Harrison Ford in *The Fugitive*

## Phil Collins hates ivory tower image

By Dean Goodman  
Reuter

**WEST HOLLYWOOD, California** — Phil Collins is mad.

It has just been suggested to the normally imperturbable pop star that people may doubt the sincerity of his socially relevant songs because, like most entertainers, he is isolated from the real world.

The grin, which seems glued to his cherubic countenance, vanishes and Collins sputters as he surveys his hotel suite looking for the words to match his reddening face.

"It really makes me mad, this thought that I live in an... ivory tower. It really

does make me mad," he said during a recent encounter with Reuters.

If there was a box with all of these rock stars and the bottom fell out, I'd be the first out."

The 42-year-old is soon on a roll as he relates how he tries to live a totally normal life with his second wife and their pre-school daughter in the English countryside.

"In England I drive myself to the supermarket... I go push the cart around as a normal person, but when it comes to paying the money it doesn't matter how much it costs.

"That's when I stop being normal, but at least I push the cart around the super-

market. So I try my best, y'know what I mean?"

Indeed Collins is widely regarded as a good, hard-working bloke: "Mr Nice Guy" as he terms it. His easy-listening tunes like *One More Night* and *Against All Odds* became radio staples, and he often pokes fun at himself in his videos.

The only problem is that when he writes a tune with a twist, like *Another Day In Paradise*, which dealt with the homeless problem and won him the 1990 Grammy for record of the year, he considers that people don't take him seriously.

He is resigned to the fact that he is going to spend the rest of his career weighed down by "baggage" from his 23-year membership of art-rock band Genesis and from his solo outings — both of which manage to arouse critical indifference and sales in the millions.

"If Neil Young wrote

*Another Day...*, it would appear differently, the sentiment would not be viewed the same way. Because I do it, I tend to fall into the 'couldn't possibly be serious' category," Collins says.

"It bothers me that people misunderstand and don't give me at least some credit for having some kind of intelligence. (Yet) in the same way that I have about the grateful dead, people have made their minds up about me. There's nothing I can do about it."

Collins is building up the defenses because his latest album "both sides" (Atlantic) leads off with a song that suggests that the hoods who hang out in the ghettos cannot be blamed for the violence that they bring upon others.

Collins wrote *Both Sides Of The Story*, which is the first single, after seeing the movie *Grand Canyon* where a white professional's car breaks down in a seedy area of Los Angeles and he almost gets done in by some locals.

In the song, Collins's

ghetto kid character meets the white stranger and tells him that he carries a gun so that he can get respect from

the people who would usually brush him off.

And Collins claims in with the refrain, "we always need to hear both sides of the story."

By way of explanation he says society has to take the blame for urban decay, but instead chooses to ignore what is happening. So when "this fat businessman" strays into an area that he never knew existed, it's perhaps understandable that he should come to grief.

Collins wrote *Both Sides Of The Story*, which is the first single, after seeing the movie *Grand Canyon* where a white professional's car breaks down in a seedy area of Los Angeles and he almost gets done in by some locals.

This apparent political correctness leads to the pop star bubble argument, and it emerges the song was originally going to be the other way. How victims of a rotten relationship need to their peace.

What I'm doing, I'm saying, 'excuse me,' this bothers me, does it bother anybody else? If it bothers anybody else, let's all put our houses in order. If I'm the only one then you carry on."

In short it's a downbeat album devoid of any horns or raunchy licks, and he suggests his commercial fortunes may decline after the huge success of *More Upbeat Fare* (1985) and his last studio album... But

Seriously (1989). Perhaps it represents the new *Phil Collins?*

"I've been telling people I'm not so nice for years now, (but) they don't believe me," he says with a grim.

## The kids love Mickey, but it's an investor's haunted mansion

By Christopher Burns  
The Associated Press

**MARNE-LA-VALLEE, France** — Euro Disneyland is a white-knuckle ride for everyone: The kids dazzled by the Magic Kingdom, recession-plagued parents and investors facing heavy losses from the troubled park.

While rumours of insolvency cause its stock to seesaw, talks between California's Walt Disney Co., the French Euro Disney Group and about 60 banks that hold its debt are to produce a restructuring agreement by spring.

Or else... For the investors — including small shareholders — that suspense is the park's real rough ride.

Euro Disneyland opened in April 1992 at a cost of \$4 billion. Despite efforts to cut costs and boost revenue, it lost more than \$900 million in the fiscal year ending Sept. 30.

Ironically, the troubles exist despite the fact that the park is Europe's No. 1 tourist attraction.

"Yes, we'd come back. We love it," said a dozen

young, squealing French Mickey fans in unison, piling out of the haunted mansion and scampering toward the Indiana Jones and the Temple of Peril thrill ride.

"The special effects were great," said Jean Johann, 13, still wide-eyed and enthusiastic on his fourth trip to the park, sparkling brilliantly in the autumn sunshine 18 miles east of Paris.

More than 17 million visitors have visited Euro Disney since it opened. Chronic rain in France doesn't seem to scare them away.

So why is the Euro Disney Group more than \$3.4 billion in the hole and still hemorrhaging?

The problem lies with what the customers do after they pass through the ticket booths.

Euro Disney also plans to cut 950 jobs from its 11,000-strong work force and slow down some of its expansion plans, though it still plans next year to add four attractions to the existing 35.

In the company's recent financial report, Philippe Bourguignon, chairman of the Euro Disney Group, said if a financial restructuring isn't completed, the

company may run out of money to pay operating expenses.

The report sent the stock plunging past its already low levels. Topping out at about \$28 per share one month before the park opened, Euro Disney stock fell to as low as \$4 last week before closing up last Friday at \$5.32.

British and French press reports that Walt Disney was threatening to walk away from the park have sparked stock sell-offs.

"We have made no allusion to any kind of threat," Walt Disney spokesman Tom Deegan said in a telephone interview from Burbank.

The stock was also driven down because of expectations that the restructuring deal will include an offer to banks to trade existing debt for stock or new debt that is convertible into stock. That would dilute the existing shares.

Walt Disney Co., which owns 49 per cent of the Euro Disney's stock, has agreed thus far to pump

\$350 million into the park until the restructuring. The question is how much more the U.S. company is prepared to pay.

Walt Disney has less to lose financially than the banks that hold the lion's share of the debt. That isn't its only concern, analysts say.

"It would be a disaster to let the park close down because it would be very de-

trimental to the brand image in Europe," said David Harrington with James Capel in Paris.

Despite historic concerns about American influence on French culture, French officials are unabashed cheerleaders for the park.

Last week, Paris sought to boost Mickey's image by having him turn on the Christmas lights along the Champs-Elysees.

With the Mariinsky to return every year to St Petersburg to sing and also whenever a performance is being filmed. He will fly anywhere in the world to join the company when it is touring.

"We have started to go abroad more — we have to give our performers the chance to earn a living," said Malkov, admitting this was a disappointment for the St Petersburg audience.

"But we have two companies, one we can send abroad and one we can keep at home. The young ones stay here and get the chance to play leading roles."

With the Mariinsky to return every year to St Petersburg to sing and also whenever a performance is being filmed. He will fly anywhere in the world to join the company when it is touring.

"This system allows us to keep the team together virtually without loss... it is not always convenient for the theatre, but otherwise we would lose them forever," Malkov said.

One or two stars are away for long periods, such as opera singer Sergei Leiferkus, who has been at Covent Garden for four years.

He has an agreement

## Kirov boss dances to his own tune to keep theatre on its feet

By David Ljunggren  
Reuter

**ST PETERSBURG, Russia** — Out front, Faruk Ruzimatov, one of Russia's finest ballet dancers, draws storms of applause from the audience as he whisks across the stage.

Behind the scenes at St Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre, the footwork of director Anatoly Markov is almost as impressive as he fights to keep the show on in the face of economic crisis.

"Any theatre in this position has two choices. It can either simply maintain the old repertoire and extend a begging hand to sponsors,"

he said in an interview. "Or you can juggle the finances and keep on trying to put on new performances. This is our path. We can't expect the state to help us because it can't afford to."

The collapse of the Soviet Union prompted the theatre, better known in the West as the Kirov, to revert to the original pre-Soviet name of Mariinsky.

Founded in 1782 on the orders of Catherine the Great when St Petersburg was Russia's capital, the Mariinsky consists of two separate companies — the ballet and the opera. Moscow's Bolshoi ballet was founded in 1825.

Malkov divides his time between looking for new ways of meeting the often exorbitant cost of performances while trying to persuade his stars not to leave for big salaries in the West.

"We have severe financial problems which interfere with our creative work. There are many vital things we need for our performances which we can't buy," he complained.

Almost inevitably, he has had to look abroad for money.

Staging performances with theatres around the world, such as London's Covent Garden Opera House, can halve production costs. He helped devise an innovative agreement with the San Francisco Opera over the

staging of Boris Godunov. "Some of our singers performed in their production, and in exchange they offered us the choice of their scenery.

"This helps us a lot... We put on eight new pieces last year, the Bolshoi just one," he said with a smile.

The more performances of opera and ballet, the greater the income from foreign television companies for recording rights.

The ballet, which has been travelling the world for 20 years, is in great demand abroad — later this month it will tour South Korea and Japan for four weeks.

"It's easier to send the

ballet because it's cheaper to stage and the income flows into the theatre. All the earnings from the opera are spent on putting on the pieces," Malkov said.

Time and time again, the director's conversation returned to money.

"My main regret is that we can't pay the artists what they deserve. This is a great problem for us," he said.

The best-paid stars receive just 100,000 roubles (\$35) a month, a fraction of what they could earn from a single performance in a leading theatre abroad.

Malkov, uncomfortably aware of the exodus of stars from the Bolshoi to the West, has worked out a

system to prevent his stars from emigrating. The Mariinsky, unlike the Bolshoi, takes a sympathetic approach towards a star invited to work abroad, allowing him or her to go as long as they sign a contract agreeing to return.

"This system allows us to keep the team together virtually without loss... it is not always convenient for the theatre, but otherwise we would lose them forever," Malkov said.

## AIDS-infected haemophiliacs hope scandal will open purses

By Michael Christie  
Reuter

**BONN** — For German dentist Rainer Grote, life-saving treatment for haemophilia in the early 1980s turned out to be a death sentence.

Like 1,835 other haemophiliacs, who use blood-based clotting agents to prevent chronic bleeding, Dr. Grote was infected with the AIDS virus through HIV-tainted plasma before the government introduced mandatory screening of blood in 1985.

Dr. Grote, 36, has lived with HIV for eight years. "I can expect to live 10 years with the virus. Once AIDS strikes, I have at most another 18 months left," he said.

For nearly a decade, the haemophiliacs have been forgotten or ignored. Like Dr. Grote, hundreds have been unable to practise their professions. Some have been forced into near-poverty.

"Many sufferers have fallen through the social safety net. Families are affected, wives are infected," said Dr. Grote, whose own profession broke up under the strain of the infection.

It has taken nationwide hysteria and alarm over allegations of corporate skulduggery in the blood business to bring the plight of the haemophiliacs into the open.

Few are likely to benefit from the attention as the pharmaceutical industry's

blood for AIDS? Twenty-five marks (\$14.7)? They kill people for 25 marks?" A Bonn taxi driver asked, echoing the anger felt throughout Germany.

The clamour has spurred the government to acknowledge the tragedy of its dying haemophiliacs.

Health Minister Horst Seehofer, spurred by public disgust has vowed to clear up the 1980s "catastrophe" and has set up a fund to pay haemophiliacs a monthly pension.

Polls suggest 12 million people want to take an AIDS test after three pharmaceutical firms were closed down over suspicions that greed for profits led them to screen only a portion of their products.

"What does it cost to test

Mr. Seehofer's offer is too late — they are already dead.

For those still clinging to life, it is too little. They want lump sum payments of 300,000 marks (\$177,000) and cite the \$400,000 paid per victim in France to support their claim.

"Seehofer's plan is a step in the right direction, but it's not enough. The monthly payments just cover the rent for a family of four," said Dr. Grote, now spokesman for the haemophilia interest group.

"We must find a way to secure the future of the dependants," agreed German Haemophilia Society's Klaus Poek.

Mr. Seehofer has said he is in favour of adequate compensation, insisting that

additional funds should come from the industry responsible for infecting the haemophiliacs in the first place.

To add insult to injury, the industry's insurers have refused to take part in Mr. Seehofer's compensation scheme.

In 1988, away from the glare of public attention, the insurers quietly offered 1,350 infected haemophiliacs an average 60,000 marks (\$35,300) in unofficial compensation.

"It was nothing for a ruined life," said Dr. Grote. "But they said if we took them to court, and made the issue public, we would never get a thing. Court cases would have lasted years and the insurers knew the AIDS sufferers

couldn't last that long."

A lucky few were paid as much as 500,000 marks (\$290,000). The lowest payment was 5,000 marks — to buy a coffin and cover burial costs.

"They beat their chests and say, 'we've paid up,'" complained Mr. Poek at the insurers' dismissal of the renewed calls for compensation. "It seems quite a cold-blooded industry."

"You can't call us cold-blooded," countered Ekkehard Metzdorf of the German Liability Insurers Association. "Legally, we didn't have to pay in 1988 and it was not a question of guilt and damages."

Mr. Seehofer's ministry is at work to help AIDS victims pursue court cases against pharmaceuti-

al firms and insurers.

Many of those who received payments in the 1980s signed agreements not to pursue the matter further.

Mr. Metzdorf said the in-

surers would consider claims from infections after screening was introduced in 1985, that is, claims arising from the current scandal.

"We expect to have to pay up, even if criminal practice is established."

So far, only about 40 such cases have been identified.

Dr. Grote acknowledged that the insurers' strategy made commercial sense.

"The longer it takes for the compensation issue to be tackled, the fewer will be the number of haemophiliacs left alive to benefit," he said.

## AIDS spiral raises rights issues in China

By Andrew Gollin  
Reuter

**BEIJING** — For years the slow click of the abcuses on China's AIDS count was a comfort to health officials who felt the world's most populous country was escaping a world-wide epidemic.

Isolated cases of infection in overseas visitors or local drug users were carefully listed and filed, while the public was believed safe from what is still seen as a foreigner's disease.

The abacus has been clicking faster in recent months and the chart of Chinese infections has begun the harrowing climb seen in other parts of the world.

Beijing is now drafting a coordinated set of policies to fight the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) — confronting a boom in sex, drugs and prostitution which earlier generations of Communist leaders believed they had wiped out.

"Our government's basic attitude toward AIDS is not to be afraid of the disease but not to relax our guard," said Zou Ping, a cabinet official overseeing a new government report on the AIDS threat to China. "We will try our best to keep abreast of new developments."

AIDS is more than a public health problem for Beijing. Values on sexual morality, narcotics abuse and even human rights are being called into question as officials argue over the right approach to a disease made worse as economic reforms open China to the outside world.

Overseas AIDS experts say China must mount a large campaign to educate people and reach high-risk groups with information rather than the threat of punishment.

"They shouldn't be looking at the numbers. Forget the numbers," said one foreign AIDS expert who has made his own independent analysis of China's

AIDS situation. "They should be looking at the people who are infected, and the fact that so far the disease has been increasing almost geometrically."

The question is whether Beijing can muster the courage to deal with "feudalist evils" like prostitution in any way other than by trying to stamp them out. The foreign expert says this would drive AIDS underground and dramatically increase the risk.

Chinese officials met in Beijing recently with specialists from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Development Programme to review China's first three-year plan against AIDS which expires this year.

China's early actions against AIDS were praised as a model of government foresight. After registering its first case in 1985, Beijing swiftly set up a National AIDS Committee and began widespread screening of

high-risk groups like homosexuals, drug abusers and prostitutes.

A special danger zone — Yunnan province which borders the drug-producing Golden Triangle region — was identified and programmes were set up to fight rising rates of HIV infection among local drug users, mostly farmers.

HIV, or human immunodeficiency virus, is the agent that causes AIDS.

Reports of AIDS devastation in other countries, ranging from the United States to Thailand to Tanzania, were interpreted in China as a sign of flawed morality and poor social control.

That easy confidence is now being undermined by new data that show China may be close to an AIDS explosion.

With more than 1,100 confirmed cases of HIV infection, the incidence in China is still statistically minimal. But shifting patterns of infection indicate the disease is moving from

relatively isolated peasant communities into big cities, transmitted via sexual contact and intravenous drug use.

China's number of confirmed HIV-positive cases has doubled each year for the past several years. Geographic distribution has also spread, moving from Yunnan to include 21 of the 30 provinces, major cities and special economic zones.

The number of cases spread by sexual contact jumped to 20 per cent of the total in 1992 compared with only 10 per cent in 1991.

The first few cases of Chinese-to-Chinese sexual transmission have been re-

corded, with highly mobile workers like truck drivers and salespeople beginning to test positive.

Data on other sexually transmitted diseases, including syphilis and gonorrhoea, provide alarming models of the possible progression of an epidemic. Officially reported STD cases rose from a mere 48 in 1980 to more than 400,000 in 1992.

With both commercial sex and drug abuse still subject to severe punishment and homosexuality hardly acknowledged, there has been little talk of how to reach risk populations.

The idea of promoting rights — be they medical or political — for gays, prostitutes and drug addicts is anathema to China's elderly leaders but may be unavoidable if the AIDS threat is to be countered.

Georg Petersen, WHO's top regional official for AIDS/HIV, told the review team this month that China must find a way to balance its political morality with reaching out to affected groups.

"Prevention... means health education, both for the general public and for target groups at high risk," Mr. Petersen said. "The political commitment must stretch down at every level, from provinces to the cities to the countryside."

Mr. Zou said he expected the official AIDS report to be put to the cabinet by the end of the year. Its main elements would include a call for more coordination between various government departments and more anti-AIDS propaganda.

Foreign experts hope Beijing will honour its promise to face the AIDS threat head-on. "China is on the right road," Mr. Petersen said. "We all hope that it will stay on that road."

## Cigarettes blamed as major cause of 500,000 strokes in U.S.

By Paul Raeburn  
The Associated Press

**ATLANTA** — A 10-year study of more than 22,000 healthy male doctors found that smokers were twice as likely as nonsmokers to have strokes, which kill or disable a half million Americans each year.

A separate study by the same researchers found that women survivors of heart attacks or strokes could cut their risks of further trouble by eating spinach, carrots and other fruits and vegetables with Vitamins C, E and B-2 and Beta Carotene.

"Less is known about preventing strokes than preventing heart disease, so finding a modifiable risk factor is important," Dr. Manson said.

In the study of vitamin-rich diets in women, the researchers found that those whose diet included the most Vitamins A and C and Beta Carotene had a 33 per cent lower risk of heart attack and a 71 per cent lower risk of strokes, the researchers found.

"A modification of diet may have a dramatic effect on subsequent risk of heart disease," even in women in their 60s who might think it's too late to cut their risks, Dr. Manson said.

The study "just re-emphasises the terrible product that tobacco is," said Dr. James Moller, the AHA's president. "The

American public should demand some action in terms of more regulation."

The study provided good news for smokers who decide to quit. It found that former smokers' risk of strokes declined quickly after they quit. Within a few years, former smokers' risks were as low as those who had never smoked.

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are potent sources of antioxidants and citrus fruits are good sources of Vitamin C.

"These are exciting new observations," Dr. Moller said. He said the heart association is awaiting more studies before recommending specific vitamins. Eating more fruit and vegetables is a widely accepted recommendation.

Dr. Manson said she and others are now evaluating whether vitamin pills lower risks as effectively as fruits and vegetables containing the vitamins. In the meantime, she recommends that people get the vitamins in food, not pills.

Beta Carotene, a precursor of Vitamin A, is found in carrots, spinach and broccoli. Vitamin B-2, or Riboflavin, and Vitamin E are found in green leafy vegetables. Vitamin E is also found in nuts, milk and eggs, and Vitamin C is found primarily in citrus fruit.

Those changes can increase the risk of a so-called Ischemic stroke, in which a clot interrupts blood supply to part of the brain, causing that part of the brain to die.

But smoking also boosts blood pressure, increasing the risk of bleeding in the brain, which can also destroy brain tissue, Dr. Manson said.

She has found the smoking-stroke connection to be helpful in counseling patients to quit the habit.

"People are very afraid of strokes. Some see heart disease as a more painful, quiet pass-away-in-the-night kind of thing. Whereas strokes instill more fear about quality of life," Dr. Manson said.

## Psychologists find condoms more practical solution than vaccine

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The money and effort spent to develop a vaccine for AIDS could be better spent on treatment and inventing stronger, more user-friendly condoms, two psychologists contend.

"We have to consider cost effectiveness," said Professor Paul Abramson of the University of California at Los Angeles. "The current programme puts billions of dollars into developing a preventive vaccine, while a device exists for HIV which is 98 per cent effective."

AIDS, a contagious disease that attacks the body's immune system, is believed caused by an unusual virus called HIV, which is spread most commonly through contact with blood or with

semen from infected persons.

Prof. Abramson and graduate student Steven Pinkerton argue in a current article that significant obstacles will remain even after an AIDS vaccine is developed. The article appears in the fall issue of the journal *Evaluation Review* and in a letter in the current issue of *Science*.

"We reject the notion that vaccination is the simplest, safest and most effective form of AIDS prevention," Mr. Pinkerton said. "Additional funding for basic research, education and treatment, and the development of stronger, more comfortable and more pleasurable condoms, would be safer and more cost-effective."

They argue that an AIDS vaccine would provide a false sense of security because many people would believe, incorrectly, that they could not contract the disease. Prof. Abramson said influenza vaccines are less than 80 per cent effective.

### SOLUTIONS

(A) Making a century  
 $80+2+4+5+7 - 1-3=100$

(B) ANALINKS

The letters of RAT and BEE make REBATE. The letters of SWAN and DEER make ANSWERED.

The letters of BEAR and GOAT make ABRO-GATE.

FORESTRY

By Robert Lieblich

**CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

1. Precious mineral
5. Hay, e.g.
9. Chunk
13. Eggplant
17. Or a shaft candy
18. Victory
19. Sonatas
20. Sordid
21. Andrew Jackson
23. Carnal trust
25. Investigations
26. Sordid
28. Stagnant
29. Govt. org.
30. Some cheques
31. Stomach
32. Merde
33. Ms. Mayle
34. Stomach a stop
41. Football shape
42. Test of song
47. Pasture
48. Headline
50. Sordid
51. Special oil
52. "Mistakes"
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72. Corporate letters
73. "Mistakes"
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78. "Mistakes"
79. "Mistakes"
80. "Mistakes"
81. Place to dry
82. Wine city
83. "Mistakes"
84. "Mistakes"
85. "Mistakes"
86. Gehrig
87. He debuted in
88. "Mistakes"
89. "Mistakes"
90. "Mistakes"
91. House pets
92. "Mistakes"
93. Cornerstone
94. Medieval pilgrim
95. Andras del —
96. Devoured
97. Cash, inventory, etc.
98. Get don'ts
99. Pack away
100. Cascades peak
101. Cuts into
102. "

# King: Amman — the capital of deep-rooted Arab thinking, yet open to other cultures and experiences

The following is the speech by His Majesty King Hussein at the Royal Staff and Command College, Wednesday, Dec. 1, 1993.

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Prayers and peace be upon the Loyal Arab Hashemite Prophet

Dear graduating officers, honoured guests,

Peace be upon you and God's mercy and His blessings

our origins, embody these obligations in honouring the message and the noble principles of the revolt. We reiterate these principles again today, calling for unity, freedom, democracy and respect for hu-

man rights. The third issue is that this world has changed. The last few years have witnessed the collapse of regimes, the tearing apart of countries, civil wars as well as famine. We were conscious that the world was witnessing deep changes, at the political, economic, social and intellectual levels. We were also conscious that our nation has got to appreciate these changes and pragmatically deal with them, in accordance with its own capabilities, potential, aims and the aspirations of its people, and their yearning to total freedom from backwardness, oppression and plundering."

These are the basic components of our position, to which we are obligated, and on which we base our vision for the future.

Dear brethren,

After four decades of unflagging hard work, our march continues based on the Hashemite example, in the same spirit in which Jordan was established, whereby our faith in the Great Arab Revolt was maintained as an aim, the unity of the nation as an objective, shura and democracy as a way of life and freedom and dignity of mankind as an essence and a chief constituent. It is satisfying to be cognizant of the Arab state as an ultimate aim, the Jordanian state as the embodiment of hard work and strong will, of Islam as the faith, of mind as a stanchion, of intellect and freedom as the way to advance, of education as pioneering, of farming as an honour, of defending the land as martyrdom, of credibility in politics, and modernity as well as the wisdom of tradition in culture.

I had said when we were at the height of our great democratic transition, that we support all who made it possible for Jordan to be free, strong

and prosperous. On the other hand, we could lend no support whatsoever to anyone who might be tempted to use this transition for selfish and narrow motives. We are the soldiers of the Great Arab

ultimate hope and invincible shield. Its vanguards have always been ahead at the forefront, and were exemplary in bravery, sacrifice, discipline and in their capability for improvement and achievement.

thinking, yet open to other cultures and experiences. Our of Jordan would come the essence of Arab unity. For it is us, the Al Albeit, and Jordanians, who are the heirs of the ideals and principles of the Great Arab Revolt. It is our duty to work to close the Arab ranks, of whom we are. For we are the protagonists of the nation's unity and its complementarity, the resurrectors of its glory, and the makers of its future. Let us proceed on this path, armed with faith and determination, with awareness, knowledge and clear vision, looking ahead to a brighter future.

I congratulate you and greet you once more. I beseech the Almighty Allah to grant us success for the good of our homeland and the nation. May the Almighty preserve and keep you.

Peace be with you and God's mercy and His blessing.

"We were also conscious that our nation has got to appreciate these changes and pragmatically deal with them, in accordance with its own capabilities, potential, aims and the aspirations of its people, and their yearning to total freedom from backwardness, oppression and plundering."

man rights. The third issue is that this world has changed. The last few years have witnessed the collapse of regimes, the tearing apart of countries, civil wars as well as famine. We were conscious that the world was witnessing deep changes, at the political, economic, social and intellectual levels. We were also conscious that our nation has got to appreciate these changes and pragmatically deal with them, in accordance with its own capabilities, potential, aims and the aspirations of its people, and their yearning to total freedom from backwardness, oppression and plundering. Otherwise, our nation will remain incapable of confronting these challenges if its leaders do not work for a rebuilding of the new Arab order, in a new spirit, bypassing the differences, divisions and estrangements which have beset inter-Arab relations in the past. Everyone must overlook the wounds left over by the Gulf war, as well as various splits and fissures. This can only materialise if we all take a brotherly and forgiving attitude and explore the challenges of the future, which obliges us to be united, arm in arm, so that our nation can have a dignified presence in this new age.

With regard to Jerusalem — the blood of the martyrs of our valiant Armed Forces still scents its walls and gates, in the vicinity of the tomb of Al Hussein Bin Ali, and mingled with that of Abdullah Bin Al Hussein in the enclosure of its Aqsa — we have clearly said that the relationship of the Hashemites with Jerusalem is a historic as well as a religious one. Our obligation towards the city is supported by history and exemplified by martyrdom. We will stay steadfast to our obligations towards the city and its holy sites. We will retain its patronage and will continue its restoration. We will not recognise any sovereignty over Jerusalem except that of the Almighty Allah. We have called for the establishment of a non-political, venerable and religious authority, in which the seven Islamic faiths would be represented. The new authority would be responsible for the affairs of the Islamic holy sites and would enjoy our full support. We have also called for a comprehensive dialogue between the three monotheistic religions, to be based on the premise that Jerusalem is the symbol of peace, a jewel of the

Our position regarding the Palestinian cause has remained unchanged. It is based on the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, embodied in Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of land for peace, and the right of Palestinians to self-determination on their national soil, within the context of a just, durable and comprehensive solution. A solution which future generations will accept, protect and defend. The Rabat summit in 1974, at Arab request and Palestinian insistence, decided that the Palestine Liberation Organisation is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We headed

As I congratulate you on your success and distinction, and on the knowledge and new experiences you have acquired, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the commanders of this academy, be they instructors or administrators, for their continuous hard work and excellent performance.

Dear citizens,

When I spoke to you on a similar occasion last year, I stressed a number of issues which are still as important as they were then, and are of great consequence. The first of those issues is that our Arab Legion has remained the ultimate example of courage, sacrifice, discipline and commitment to military honour. This legion is but a part and parcel of the various brigades and battalions of the Great Arab Revolt whose principles and message it has always upheld. The second issue is that we are still committed to the same ideals of our forefathers, the soldiers of the Great Arab Revolt, and its leader, Al Hussein Bin Ali, the nation's freedom, independence and unity. In our democratic process, which is committed to freedom, the respect for human rights, pluralism and justice, we, Jordanians, regardless of

Iraq

(Continued from page 1) taken by the international coalition to enforce them.

"There is no convincing evidence that (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein's regime is prepared to meet this standard," Mr. Djerejian said.

In addition to Iraq, which he said remains a regional power with a long-term potential to threaten U.S. interests.

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- b- Shorthand skills required.
- c- Past experience not a priority.
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- c- English / Arabic.

### 3- CIVIL ENGINEER

- a- Masters degree.
- b- English language required.
- c- Minimal experience required.

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The manufacture, supply, engineering delivery to site, supervision of erection, testing and commissioning of millsite electrical substations, power supply, and distribution system at Eshidiya Mines

#### Addendum (2)

JPMC hereby announces that the closing date for submission of bids has been extended until 14:00 hours local time Saturday, Jan. 15, 1994.

Sameh Madani  
Managing Director

### JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO LTD

#### Bid No. 28F/93

The design, manufacture, supply, delivery to site, supervision of erection and commissioning services of two drying plants at Eshidiya Mines

#### Addendum (2)

JPMC hereby announces that the closing date for submission of bids has been extended until 14:00 hours local time, Saturday Jan. 15, 1994.

Sameh Madani  
Managing Director

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• The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620

## British budget euphoria pushes shares to new highs

LONDON (R) — British shares raced to new highs Wednesday, celebrating a budget designed to delay the pain of tax increases until a promised economic recovery.

The Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) index of 100 leading shares hit an all-time high less than an hour after trading started as relieved buyers poured into the market adding more than £6 billion (\$8.8 billion) to stock values.

"I've got absolute pandemonium here," said one dealer. "I've got more calls than I can handle."

By midday GMT the FTSE 100 was up 80.3 points at 3,227.2 surpassing the previous all-time high of 3,199.2 set on Oct. 22 and heading still higher.

— "We expect a further easing of monetary policy, with base rates falling to four per cent by the middle of next year," said Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB International.

— "Basically Clarke didn't upset anyone and the market's fears about tax increases went away with the budget," said a London share trader.

The bond market, the government's main source of finance for extra borrowing, liked what it heard and December's long gilt futures also reached record highs.

Some analysts believed there might be a further interest rate cut in the pipeline despite assurances from Mr. Clarke

that last week's half point reduction to 5.5 per cent was taken in the light of his planned budget measures.

— "We expect a further easing of monetary policy, with base rates falling to four per cent by the middle of next year," said Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB International.

— Sterling succumbed to a bout of profit-taking on interest rate expectations, slipping to 1.4783 and 2.5375 marks compared with Tuesday's late 1.4840 and 2.5490 marks.

The financial markets had feared a high tax budget that could have hit consumer confidence just as Britain is emerging from a painful two-year recession.

But Mr. Clarke cleverly delayed changes to personal tax

allowances and tax relief on home loans for one or two years and, in a surprise move, left value added tax untouched.

— Almost every sector in the FTSE showed gains with publishing groups, brewers and retailers registering the highest mark-ups.

Only insurance companies and travel firms were left out of the party, victims of new taxes on some insurance premiums and airport departures.

— It's a combination of a sense of relief that pension funds have come out unscathed and that Clarke has put in a very astute budget which has not jeopardised recovery," said Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull strategist Corey Miller.

## OECD sees slow Japanese recovery

PARIS (AFP) — Japan, facing a yen "shock" and the aftermath of the financial "bubble" of the 1980s, could see a modest 1.4 per cent expansion in 1994 after zero growth this year, the OECD said Thursday.

The 34.5 per cent effective (trade-weighted) appreciation of the yen in the year to last September, combined with slowing European growth, had considerably reduced Japan's export market share, it said.

This also hurt business confidence, offsetting the impact of monetary easing and successive packages of fiscal stimulus. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in its annual survey of the Japanese economy.

The survey ascribed Japan's current recession mainly to imbalances in the financial, real-estate and corporate sectors resulting from over-investment during the "bubble economy" period in the past decade.

Correction of these imbalances, including the impact of non-performing loans on the

banking system, is the key immediate challenge facing the Japanese economy now apparently at a crossroads, the OECD said.

Noting good progress in corporate restructuring, it said that the yen's sharp rise had squeezed company profits and hit industrial investment, expected to fall by 7.5 per cent in 1993 and 1.25 per cent in 1994.

Worsening labour market conditions and lower summer bonuses consequently depressed household confidence and consumption.

Poor weather added to the morosity, with consumption dipping in July on "reduced demand for summer clothing, beer, air conditioners" and other seasonal needs. It

However, the OECD said, the yen's rise would entail large terms of trade gains and could help cut consumer price inflation to 0.5 per cent by year-end and to almost zero in 1994.

This in turn should bring a 1.75 per cent rise in real incomes, and hence a pickup in pri-

market."

The OECD said the placing of the Japanese economy back on a satisfactory path of medium-term balanced growth and improving living standards would require stepped up structural reforms, including further liberalisation of markets for agricultural and construction land.

It also called for more inward direct investment in the service sectors, and stressed that solving the problem of population ageing would depend "critically" on effective investment of current savings in social and industrial infrastructure.

Higher tax revenue might also be needed, and reform of the tax system was urgently needed to cope with this problem, it said.

In the short term, growth in the Japanese economy would rely heavily on the impact of the public works packages adopted since August 1992, and on the response of housing investment to monetary easing which brought the official discount rate to an all-time low of 1.75 per cent last September.

## Indian industry urged to shape up for competition

BOMBAY, India (Agencies) — Indian Finance Minister Manmohan Singh said that industry had to set out a programme of rapid modernisation within the next three to four years if it was to become internationally competitive.

Mr. Singh said industry had to stop looking back on the days when it was protected from competition by socialist-style governments which shunned multinationals.

"The temptation to think in government and industry that we can go back to things as they existed before would be a counsel for disaster," Mr. Singh told the Indian Merchants Chamber here.

Indian industry should work out a timetable of three to four

years for modernisation to catch up with international standards, he said.

If the industry does not accept this, we are in for deep trouble," he said.

Sections of Indian industry have expressed reservations about the government's open door policy towards foreign companies, fearing the local market will be swamped and domestic brand names wiped out.

But Mr. Singh, a former economist with the World Bank said: "We have to be a major exporting and trading nation if we are to overcome our foreign exchange shortages that have crippled our development. Large-scale concessional borrowings are not an option to

deal with our chronic shortage of foreign exchange."

Mr. Singh, who has put forward wide-ranging reforms, said the policy of liberalisation begun in 1991, which ended more than four decades of protectionism, was irreversible.

"There is always the danger that the forces of inertia will take over. There is a great temptation now both in government and industry to go back to the pre-reform period," he pointed out.

Meanwhile, overseas investors and financial institutions are pressing India to speed up economic reforms.

"The sleeping giant has started stirring but has not got on to its feet. I hope in coming years it would do so," said Sir

William Ryrie, head of the International Finance Corporation.

India, the world's 12th-largest economy, has the potential to turn itself into one of the next "growth nodes" for Asia, according to William Thomson, operations chief for the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB).

But South Asia remains handicapped by fiscal and balance of payments weaknesses and an inadequate infrastructure base, said the ADB's Economic Outlook for the next two years.

"So far we have crossed only five milestones in a 1,000 mile path," said former commerce minister P. Chidambaram.

The General Agreement on

## U.S., S. Africa sign agreement

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown signed an investment agreement Tuesday aimed at stimulating American business activity here and helping victims of apartheid.

The agreement signed with South Africa Finance Minister Derek Keys establishes relations between South Africa and the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation, or OPIC.

OPIC is a federal agency that provides financing and investment and facilities for Americans doing business abroad.

"We happen to think this is a giant step which we hope sets the tone and creates a momentum which will result in an improved standard of living particularly for those who were left out," Mr. Brown said.

An OPIC delegation, including representatives of the U.S. agency for International Development and more than 20 U.S. companies, would visit South Africa next year to assess investment opportuni-

ties, Mr. Brown said.

Earlier, he met with President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, who both have said South Africa desperately needs foreign investment to solve its problems.

Touring the country with Mr. Brown on the five-day visit

are leaders of big American companies such as Apple, IBM and Lehman Brothers.

Mr. Brown told the Associated Press that all had been impressed by "an extraordinary potential market."

"You don't get senior corporate executives just to travel on a look-see basis," he said. "I think all of these companies are very serious about considering investing here."

Such investment will help increase U.S. exports and open new jobs, according to Mr. Brown.

"Helping to establish new marketplaces is in the very real interest of Americans as far as creating economic growth in America and creating high-wage, high-quality jobs," he said.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY DECEMBER 2, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Sidestep possible arguments with associates since a series of fixed adversities could follow that would take a long time to righten. Avoid anyone who you know is detrimental to your progress. Go forward.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19)

Take no chances with your vocal- tional outlet nor where dealing with those in any position of power and concerned and don't seek favours of bigwigs.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20)

This is not the time to make any changes in your ideas or viewpoints or it could react against your best interests and cause some conflict with others.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21)

This is not the day to argue about anything concerning price values or accounts and be sure, you understand clearly what business persons say.

**MONS CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21)

Make sure you are not upset by an associate who seems to be very cold and calculating but is really trying to be helpful to you objectively.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21)

The plans you had to do your tasks in an efficient manner seem to be hitting a snag but it is momentary so keep up with your original course.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22)

Some good time you had

planned seems to be falling through so accept a lesser recreation that comes up which will be just as pleasing to you.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22)

Obstacles in plans working out as you wish at home can put you in a capricious mood until you take yourself at hand and maintain calm, poised.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21)

It is important that you do use more average care on the highway to prevent some accident or a fall or some sort of adverse condition.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21)

Your money affairs can be in a muddle unless you are exact in whatever financial dealings you have and know just what is expected of you.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20)

Keep plugging away at gaining the personal things that you want the most and don't be discouraged in some delays do get in your way.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19)

Rise above a personal disappointment that can keep you from being your cheery and gregarious self and consider how best to operate in the future.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20)

Be careful of a demanding friend who wishes to direct your life and affairs for if you allow it now it can occur again and again in the future.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY DECEMBER 3, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Conform to accepted and conventional modes of expression and you will be able to advance your new interests and activities beyond present boundaries that have restricted you in the past. Hold on to your temper.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19)

Get rid of a tiresome obligation early then you will be able to join with some of your closest and most congenial companions on original recreations.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20)

An associate can hold you up temporarily early in the day but later you find that you can get into the progressive aspects of your worldly ambitions.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21)

Some vital work needs to be done after breakfast after which you are able to be off to some new interest or advanced phase of a present activity.

**MONS CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21)

Control going off on some pleasure interest early and instead seek new means by which you will be able to attend to your obligations.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21)

Don't let a family member keep you from you getting out in the world and meeting with interesting personalities for whatever your individual purpose.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22)

A communication can hold you up early but then you

find you can get into all sorts of new ways to perform whatever your work load is with efficiency.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22)

Work out early from under a financial difficulty then you will be able to afford to spend on a pleasure that means much to you but also costs some.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21)

This is the morning not to try to force your views on others but as the day passes you find you can do what satisfies your family members needs today.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20)

A demanding or gossipy friend can hold you up early but it is too good a day for practical matters to allow anything to keep you from doing them.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19)

An outside concern should not be allowed to trouble you in the morning but later you can primp and preen and show your bizarre nature, talents.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20)

A new idea should be put aside for the moment while you concentrate upon getting into phases confidentially of a new activity that appeals to you.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Kiss me and forget what your mother told you! Your face will not freeze that way!"

## JUMBLE.

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argilton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.</p



## Nurses die in Sarajevo as Geneva talks stumble on

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — An artillery barrage on Sarajevo's main casualty hospital during the night killed two nurses and badly wounded three other staff, a doctor said Wednesday.

Peace talks between the three warring sides in the Bosnian conflict continued in Geneva but international mediator Lord Owen acknowledged no agreement was in sight on Muslim demands for more territory.

Five shells slammed into the Kosovo Hospital in the Bosnian capital shortly before mid-night Tuesday.

Dr. Kieran Aranovic told reporters the casualties were caused by a direct hit on a store room in the surgical wing. The wounded were a doctor and two medical technicians.

Bil Aikman, spokesman for Sarajevo for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), said Serb forces besieging Sarajevo denied responsibility for the hospital attack.

"They claimed it was Bosnian shelling," he added.

U.N. military engineers

were examining the shell craters to determine whether the barrage came from Serb artillery ringing the city.

Col. Aikman blamed the Serbs for 21 other shells which hit Sarajevo Tuesday.

Sarajevo Radio said the deputy commander of the Muslim-led Bosnian army, Stjepan Siber, protested to senior U.N. officials after the hospital shelling, which he blamed on the Serbs.

"Since our delegation went to Geneva, the level of attacks (by Croats and Serbs) has increased," he said in a letter which was also sent to Lord Owen and his co-mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg. "This is to put pressure on our delegation."

The radio reported heavy shelling by Serbs of Muslim defence lines around Gorazde, a U.N. designated safe area in eastern Bosnia where more than 50,000 Muslims are surrounded.

The Muslim enclave of Old town of Sarajevo was hit by 300 shells Tuesday.

Croatian radio said Muslim forces were shelling Vitez in

central Bosnia and attacking Bosnian Croat positions around Maglaj.

Muslim, Croat and Serb negotiators began what was expected to be the final day of talks in the current round of peace negotiations in Geneva.

Muslims are demanding more territory than the 30 per cent allotted them in a division of the former Yugoslavia repartition into three loosely-linked ethnic states.

Lord Owen denied the talks were blocked by the issue although no agreement was in

around 70 per cent of its territory.

Meanwhile, a NATO military spokeswoman denied Wednesday that a Yugoslav Air Force MiG-29 jet dropped bombs over Tuzla in north-east Bosnia the previous day, as reported by Radio Sarajevo.

Lieutenant-Colonel James Witt, with Allied Forces Southern Europe based here, said NATO aircraft patrolling the no-fly zone ordered by the United Nations a year ago "have had no aircraft tracks which could correlate a jet flight in the area of Tuzla for some time. I guess that is a denial..."

Another military source said it would have been very difficult, given the "very poor weather" Tuesday, to distinguish for a MiG-29 had been able to fly low-level and being detected by radars.

Tuesday's radio report said the jet dropped three cluster bombs in and around Tuzla, wounding a large number of people. The authorities in the Muslim enclave protested to U.N. Protection Force officials.

## Anglo-Irish summit set for Friday

DUBLIN (Agencies) — Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds said Wednesday that an Anglo-Irish summit on Northern Ireland, placed in doubt by disclosures of British contacts with the IRA, would go ahead Friday.

"In view of the desire of myself and the British prime minister to make progress on the peace initiative, it is our intention to hold a series of meetings during the month of December," Mr. Reynolds told the Irish parliament.

"The first of these, a working meeting, will be held in

Dublin Friday," he said.

The summit with Britain's John Major had been pencilled in for Friday but Dublin sources had said it was being held up by disagreements over the wording of a joint communiqué to be issued at the end of the week.

Britain's confirmation Monday of secret contacts with the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which is fighting to end British rule in the province, had also jeopardised the summit, with Mr. Reynolds indicating he needed time to consider the implications.

On Monday, Mr. Reynolds described the disclosure of the contact as "most unhelpful" but vowed the "peace process will not go away". He said Ireland had not had contact with the IRA.

Mr. Major and Mr. Reynolds stepped up the search for peace in Northern Ireland after 27 people were killed in sectarian attacks in October.

A month's kill in violence ended Tuesday with a bomb attack and separate gun attack on British troops in Belfast. One Roman Catholic man was killed by Protestant extremists.

**Church sex abuse victims win \$13m settlement**

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AFP) — Seventeen men who said they had been sexually molested by a former Roman Catholic priest have agreed on a \$13 million settlement, lawyers said. Accused Jason Sigler, 55, who left the priesthood in 1982 after being charged with sexually abusing a child. He pleaded guilty a year later in exchange for a deferred sentence. More than 30 people have sued the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. New Mexico, saying its priests — about 12 have been named — abused them when they were children. Sigler is to testify within five days about how much the archdiocese knew about his sexual habits and when it knew.

The accusers' lawyer said Sigler had filed claims against eight insurance companies representing priests at the archdiocese and had agreed to give his rights to the claims to the plaintiffs. Sigler believed the insurance firms failed to supply him with a defence against the lawsuits charging sexual abuse, the lawyer said. Sigler met with 16 of his accusers Monday and apologised. "I couldn't believe he came forward, but I'm glad he did and showed his guilt," said Timothy Martinez, who alleges he was sexually molested by the former priests.

## Khmer Rouge retake strongholds

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — The radical Khmer Rouge have re-taken a number of strongholds in central Cambodia which were captured by government forces in August, a Ministry of Information spokesman said Wednesday.

The guerrilla faction merged seven of its divisions to create a 1,200-member force to overrun the Krava and Sokream districts of the contested province of Kompong Thom, spokesman Sieng La Presse said.

Government forces pulled back from the area and were reluctant to launch a counter-offensive, fearing the local citizens.

combined guerrilla divisions now operating under the title of the "1001 front", Mr. Sieng La Presse said.

Clashes had spread to 20 kilometres from the village of stung, which straddles the strategic national Route 6 running from Kompong Thom to Siem Reap province, he said, describing the area as a "hot spot."

However, there were sufficient numbers of government troops in the area to deal with the Khmer Rouge threat and outside reinforcements were not necessary, Mr. Sieng La Presse said.

## Patten's credibility is on line with his next move on Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AFP) — Governor Chris Patten is expected to press ahead Thursday with a limited package of electoral reforms for Hong Kong in a move likely to further anger China while failing to satisfy local demands for greater democracy, analysts said.

Mr. Patten is due to tell a Legislative Council meeting of his next step in the vexed dispute with China over the evolution of the colony's political institutions prior to its return to Chinese rule in 1997.

Following the breakdown of Sino-British talks on the issue over the weekend, a decision to limit the electoral reform package would leave the door open for last-chance negotiations on more sensitive aspects of how Hong Kong shall be governed in the run-up to

1997, analysts said.

Though China is almost certain to react angrily to any unilateral British move, political analysts doubted that the potential row that lies ahead will have a long-term impact on business in the thriving colony.

Indeed, the Hong Kong Stock Exchange's blue-chip Hang Seng Index rose 1.41 per cent as investors clung to hopes that Beijing and London can yet find common ground, brokers said.

But by trying to appear conciliatory, 15 months after he first angered China with his original blueprint for a more democratic Hong Kong, Mr. Patten may score few points among Hong Kong's six million people, analysts said.

"I don't see the Chinese

giving in," said Robert Broadfoot, managing director of Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd., a Hong Kong company that monitors South East Asian economies for major corporate clients.

"Even the partial bill Patten is talking about is starting to seriously erode his credibility," he said.

"It's going to appear to the Hong Kong public that he's starting to pull his punches — and the feeling is going to be, 'well, he's just going to pull 'em until 1997.'

The United Democrats political party — the most popular in Hong Kong when the last elections were held in 1991 — is already on record as saying it would oppose anything less than Patten's original reform proposals.

## N. Zealand Labour Party picks first woman leader in post-election coup

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Election fighting within New Zealand opposition Labour Party climaxed Wednesday with the dumping of leader Mike Moore in favour of Helen Clark, the first woman to lead a major party here.

Asked if he would stay with the party he replied: "I believe in the New Zealand Labour Party."

Ms. Clark, a 43-year-old political scientist, has been the powerbroker in the party for the last five years and manoeuvred Mr. Moore into becoming prime minister in 1990, six weeks before elections which the party knew it would lose and did so by a landslide.

In general elections on Nov. 6, Labour won 45 seats to the ruling National Party's 50 in the 99-seat chamber.

Although the Moore-dominated campaign won back for Labour 16 seats lost in the 1990 elections, the party's total vote was down slightly.

Labour tradition has it that a leader who loses two elections must go, but Mr. Moore, 44, has for the last week fought against history. He called Clark a "chardonnay socialist" and his supporters claimed she was the figurehead of a left-wing lesbian group, labelled the "Husbandless" and "the Sisters."

Ms. Clark, who is married, said there was an element of "homophobia" about the campaign.

SARNIA, Ontario (R) — An 18-year-old Catholic high school student agreed to quit his night job as a male stripper after he was threatened with expulsion, a school board official said. John Ross, director of education at the Lambton County Roman Catholic school board, said the student will leave his \$200 per week job peeling to a G-string for female audiences. The boy is a grade 13 pupil at St. Patrick's High School. "As a Catholic, we expect a high degree of conduct and we viewed this activity as unacceptable. It was creating a disturbance in the high school," Mr. Ross said.

He said the board invoked a clause in Canada's Education Act allowing school boards to act against conduct "injurious to the moral tone of a school."

Reports said the boy used the stage name Eric and was a favourite of the women who frequented the Cheri's Champagne Club in Sarnia, near Detroit.

## Fisherman nets historic haul

TORSMINDE, Denmark (AFP) — A shrimp fisherman has recovered by accident the anchors from two old English warships which sank off the western coast of Denmark in 1811, officials said. The fishermen hauled up the anchors — from the HMS St George and HMS Defence — after they became caught in his nets while out fishing in shallow waters overnight Monday. Some 1,400 people perished when the two vessels sank on December 23, 1811 during heavy storms off the Danish coast, in what was the North Sea's worst maritime disaster. Only 12 of the 850-strong crew on the 98-gun HMS St George survived the disaster when the boat sank on its return voyage to England after being rigged in Botany Bay, said Per-Jens Holm from the Ringkoebing Museum, in western Denmark.

The smaller HMS Defence, which was accompanying the HMS St George, sank with 500 men on board. The three-tonne anchor from the "HMS St George" which measures five metres in length, got tangled up in the fisherman's drag-net at a depth of 10 metres.

South Korea has so far been spared an HIV epidemic although the numbers are on the rise, the Health and Social Affairs Ministry said. Of the 314 cases detected since 1985, 69 were reported in the first 11 months of this year.

South Koreans remain surprisingly ignorant of the disease. A newspaper survey of 6,035 college freshmen found more than 40 per cent thought AIDS could be contracted from a kiss.

## Asia is next

BANGKOK (R) — The world's battle against AIDS will be won or lost in Asia, where widespread prostitution, cultural taboos and ignorance of the deadly disease have hampered efforts to stem its spread, experts say.

Infection rates in the region are soaring and by 2000 Asia could have 90 per cent of all new infection, or one million cases a year, John Dwyer, president of the AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific, said recently.

He said that by 1997 Asia would have more people infected with the HIV virus than causes AIDS than Africa.

The rapid spread of the killer also threatens to take a staggering toll on the region's burgeoning economies, robbing them of productive adults and exacting costly medical care, experts said.

The crisis is shockingly demonstrated in Thailand, where one in 50 sexually-active adults — 400,000 to 600,000 people — are believed infected with the HIV virus, according to the World Bank's 1993 report on health.

In India, 1.6 million people are believed infected with the virus, the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates.

"HIV infections have been growing so fast that in a year, India will have the highest number of HIV cases in the world," Ishwar Gilada, founder and secretary of the anti-AIDS Indian Health Organisation.

Senior congress officials said, the win in Himachal Pradesh and the party's better-than-expected performance in Rajasthan made Mr. Rao much stronger, and a win in Madhya Pradesh would seal his position.

Political analysts said a convincing victory for Congress in Madhya Pradesh would be a serious blow for the BJP, which had hoped for right-wing to fuel its drive for national

## battleground in fight against AIDS

tion (IHO), said Wednesday, World AIDS Day.

HIV is transmitted through contaminated blood, sexual intercourse or shared intravenous drug use.

From the first case of AIDS in Thailand in 1984, the incidence has rocketed to 6,496 cases of AIDS and AIDS-related complex at the end of September, 1,740 of whom have died.

AIDS is now Thailand's highest priority public health concern, with efforts concentrating on educating Thais on safe sex and trying to change a culture where multiple sex partners is not condemned.

The magnitude of the task was demonstrated by a case where villagers believed they were having safe sex by placing a condom on their finger because officials demonstrated its use that way.

John Unghakorn, director of Thai anti-AIDS group UIC, said less lecturing and more participation and discussion programmes needed to be directed at specific risk groups.

Health experts say the rise in HIV/AIDS infection has been sharp and could herald a serious future problem, however. The nature of transmission is changing as well, with some HIV-positive cases traceable to sexual activity in urban areas instead of drug use in China's borders as before.

Health experts say the rise in HIV/AIDS infection has been sharp and could herald a serious future problem, however. The nature of transmission is changing as well, with some HIV-positive cases traceable to sexual activity in urban areas instead of drug use in China's borders as before.

"I think HIV/AIDS is still underground. People are not able to come out into the open," said Mr. Unghakorn.

"When communities are involved in caring for people living with HIV/AIDS, that will help them to protect themselves."

Mr. Dwyer told a conference in Sydney last month that Asia's politicians, preoccupied with pressing economic and

social problems, were "frighteningly unimpressed" by the danger imposed by AIDS.

The IHO's Gilada was harshly critical of India, calling AIDS "totally inadequate."

"The anti-AIDS campaign is a low priority issue," he said.

In China the government may be contributing to misinformation about the disease by emphasising its "foreign" nature and doing little to reach relatively high risk groups, experts said.

State media Wednesday reported Beijing has officially registered 1,159 people as HIV positive, with 19 cases of AIDS.

Health experts say the rise in HIV/AIDS infection has been sharp and could herald a serious future problem, however. The nature of transmission is changing as well, with some HIV-positive cases traceable to sexual activity in urban areas instead of drug use in China's borders as before.

In Indonesia the government expressed concern about its growing AIDS problem but does not want to antagonise its large Muslim population.

Only 172 people are officially registered in Indonesia as having the HIV virus, but officials say the number is probably around 20,000. They predict the number could increase to 500,000 by 1995 if no urgent measures are taken.

Family Planning Minister Haryono Suyono said Tuesday

Joe II, inc 1/10

## Africa Sports face death on the Nile

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Africa Sports' National have been warned to expect a battle if they want to retain their African Cup Winner Cup crown in Cairo's Nasser Stadium Friday.

A 1-1 first leg draw in Abidjan has left top Egyptian club Al Ahli as favourites to win the competition for a record fourth time.

"I never make predictions, but one thing is certain — Africa Sports will know they have been in a battle when they walk off the pitch Friday," Al Ahli coach Allan Harris warned.

Harris, formerly Terry Venables' assistant at Barcelona, is confident of success. "We got a good result in Abidjan on a very bad pitch."

Al Ahli, who have never lost at home in the cup, would have won in Abidjan but for a late equaliser from Gabriel Okolozi, the forward whose eight goals in last season's competition included the winner when the two sides clashed at the quarterfinal stage.

Africa Sports went on to become the first Ivorian winners of the trophy and then beat Champion Cup Wydad Casablanca of Morocco to lift the inaugural African Super Cup.

But Al Ahli's formidable home record suggests both trophies will slip from their grasp Friday.

In 21 home matches in the competition, the Egyptians, who can count on the support

of 100,000 partisan fans, have won 19 and drawn two, scored 49 goals and conceded only three.

After winning three seasons running from 1984-86, they retained the General Mostafa Trophy. Organisers used the opportunity to introduce the Nelson Mandela Cup in honour of the then jailed South African leader.

As well as home advantage, Al Ahli have the edge in experience:

Al Ahli goalkeeper Ahmad Shoubeir, fullback Ibrahim Hassan and his brother, striker Hossam, played for Egypt in the 1990 World Cup finals, and Mohammad Ramadan is a consistency scorer.

Now he faces death on the Nile.

has managed only three goals in this campaign, two less than Nigerian compatriot Thompson Oliha and Ahmad Ouattara.

Powerfully built Beugre Yago is another dangerous striker, Captain Serge Alan Maguy a skillful midfielder, while veteran Pascal Miezian has been recalled to bolster a suspect defence.

Defeat would be particularly unpleasant for Rachid Cheradi, an Algerian coach who moved from Burundi Club Vital'O to mastermind Africa Sports' Mandela Cup defence.

Last December, Cheradi sat helpless on the sideline as Africa Sports tore Vital'O to shreds in the final in Abidjan.

Now he faces death on the Nile.

## Al Wihdat beats Al Arabi 2-0 to top Jordan soccer standings

By Aileen Baumyan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The seventh week of the first division soccer championship will prove to be very crucial for teams vying for an advanced standing. In matches lined up Thursday Al Wihdat clash with al Ramtha, Al Jazireh take on titleholders Al Faisali, and Al Ahli face Al

Faisali. from a header by veteran player Khaled Awad in the 73rd minute. Al Qadissieh's players protested the goal citing that their goalkeeper Khaled Abdul Fattah was pushed by Al Faisali's players in an attempt to stop him from saving the ball. The later lost the chance to equalise and protested again when the referee failed to award a penalty kick for a clear tackle in the penalty box. Tension was heightened when the referee issued red card bookings to Al Faisali's Moussa Awad and Al Qadissieh's Ahmad Sharif.

The win enabled Al Faisali to capture second place for now.

Al Hussein remained in third place this week after a 1-1 draw with Al Jazireh.

Al Hussein scored Al Hussein's goal from a penalty kick in the 23rd minute.

Al Jazireh's Murad Hassan equalised in the 47th minute, and Tawfiq Al Sahab lost a chance to give Al Jazireh a precious win when he lost an almost sure scoring chance. Both teams settled for 20 points each.

Al Ahli climbed to fifth place after an impressive 2-0 win over lowly Al Baqaa.

Amer Wali lost two scoring

chances for Al Ahli early in the match. However, teammate Nart Yada scored two goals in the 74th and 85th minutes to give his team three points in the standings before team captain Amer Muhib was dismissed with a red card.

Al Ramtha, playing only their second match of the competition after taking part in the Arab Club's Cup in Saudi Arabia, scored their second win with a 2-0 score over Sahab.

Striker Khaled Al Agouri scored both his team's goals late in the second half. The first goal came by a header in the 81st minute, followed nine minutes later by another goal to give the win and a good moral boost after disappointing results in the Arab tourna-

### Standings after 6th week

Team	P	W	GD	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Al Wihdat	6	4	1	—	1	9	2	13
Al Faisali	5	3	1	1	1	8	7	12
Al Hussein	6	3	1	1	1	7	5	12
Al Arabi	6	3	—	1	2	9	10	11
Al Ahli	6	2	—	2	2	8	6	10
Al Faisali	5	2	—	1	2	5	8	8
Al Qadissieh	6	1	2	1	2	4	4	7
Al Ramtha	2	2	—	—	—	2	3	6
Al Yarmouk	4	2	—	—	3	5	4	6
Al Jazireh	5	1	—	—	5	5	3	3
Al Baqaa	5	1	—	—	5	5	3	3
Sahab	6	—	—	—	—	2	11	1

## Aston Villa ends Arsenal's cup run

LONDON (AFP) — Aston Villa striker Dalian Atkinson ended Arsenal's astonishing 25-match unbeaten cup run here with the only goal in a fourth round English League Cup tie.

The fleet-footed striker prised the Gunners' grip from the trophy with a fourth-minute shot following a smart exchange with Dean Saunders.

It was Villa's second win in a month at Highbury and their eighth in their last 10 meetings with the gunners, whose defeat was their first in a home cup match for three years.

Villa were fortunate to win the premiership match, but were full value for their success this time, catching Arsenal on one of their poorer nights when even their famed set-pieces were miserably unproductive.

Manchester United and first division Tranmere also marched into the quarterfinals, United with a comfortable 2-0 victory at Everton and Tranmere with a 3-0 home drubbing of Oldham.

Welsh internationals Mark Hughes and Ryan Giggs guided United through to the

last eight with goals after 13 and 46 minutes to repeat last month's premiership victory over Howard Kendall's team.

Hughes hammered a dipping drive into the net — his 10th goal of the season — while Giggs fired home after Neville Southall could only palm an Andrei Kanchelskis shot into his path.

However, United's Danish goalkeeper, Peter Schmeichel, helped their cause considerably with a 52nd minute penalty save from Tony Cottee after Stuart Barlow had been fouled by Gary Pallister.

The premier league leaders were full value for their win, though, as they also had three goals disallowed within four minutes in the second half.

Meanwhile, Tranmere reached the last eight for the first time with their win over Oldham, who had to battle with 10 men from the 36th minute after defender Richard Johnson was sent off for a professional foul on John Thistle.

The night's two other premier league games ended in goalless stalemates, Hibernian suffering their third successive blank at home to St Johnstone and Kilmarnock being held by Heart of Midlothian.

Tranmere capitalised with two goals from midfielder Ged Brannan, who struck with a 52nd minute drive and 60th

## Taylor rejects Birmingham job

BIRMINGHAM, England (AFP) — Graham Taylor, who resigned as England manager last week, rejected an immediate chance to return club football with first division strugglers Birmingham City.

The one-time Aston Villa boss told City that he did not want to be considered for the vacancy at St Andrews, which arose with Terry Cooper's resignation Monday.

Birmingham owner David Sullivan is a fan of Taylor, who enjoyed great success across the city at Villa before moving into the England hot seat. Cooper recommended Taylor as his successor.

But Birmingham managing director Karen Brady said: "We contacted Graham to ask him whether he would want the job if it was offered to him and he told us 'he felt it was too early for him to come back into club management.'

Cooper, the former England and Leeds full-back, has pledged to end his 33-year involvement in football after being the target of a hate campaign by Birmingham fans.

"I've always said this would be my last job," he reasoned. "I've certainly no intention of rushing back in."

Sullivan said: "Taylor has got a fabulous record at club level and is someone you would not rule out."

"I would only worry that the people on the terraces may have been brainwashed into opposing him."

Cooper said: "If I'd been asked, I know who I would recommend as my successor — Graham Taylor." said Cooper. "But it would be too soon for him."

Though the United States grants asylum to almost all Cuban refugees, the athletes would also have to gain citizenship and be given a waiver from Cuban Olympic officials to compete for their new country.

That defeat put Zimbabwe out of the running for a place in next year's World Cup finals in the United States.

The defections were not li-

Jordan Times  
Tel: 667171

## Cuba herds athletes to stop defections

PONCE, Puerto Rico (AFP) — A flood of defections prompted Cuban officials to spirit more of their athletes away from here Tuesday, leaving a token contingent to save Cuba's success in the Central American and Caribbean Games.

Cuba claimed a massive 227 gold medals in the games, and 361 medals in all.

Mexico, runners-up in the medal standings, had just 64 golds among their 243 medals.

The defections were not li-

Zone qualifying match against Cameroon in Yaounde on Oct. 10.

Fabisch, a German, was repeatedly reprimanded by match officials during Zimbabwe's 3-1 defeat by the West Africans. He had stormed onto the field challenged the referee and players.

That defeat put Zimbabwe out of the running for a place in next year's World Cup finals in the United States.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH RIESCH  
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SPOT THE WINNING CLUE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH  
K 8  
K 7  
Q 9 6 4  
8 6 4 2

WEST  
7 6 8 2  
Q 10 8 2  
A 5  
J 10 7

EAST  
2 NT  
P 10 9 6 4  
J 9 4 3  
K 3 2

SOUTH  
A J  
A 6 5  
3 10 8  
A K 9 5 3

The bidding:  
South: West North East  
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass  
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♦

To make three no trump, South must develop one of the minor suits for three extra tricks. Which suit would you choose, and why?

With eight points and a five-card suit, North was clearly worth an invitational raise to two no trump. South's 17 prime points and a five-card suit to boot would have permitted even Casper Minquette to score a plus.

What led the desire of hearts and with only six first tricks, South had

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Friday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## FOR RENT Nabil Al Mashini Theatre

presents a play entitled:

Al Ilm Nuron

A popular political comedy

Actors: Abeel Issa, Daoud Jalajel,

Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali

In addition to other comedians</p

# New sanctions against Libya go into effect

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.N. sanctions aimed at forcing Libya to hand over two suspects for trial in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 went into effect Wednesday with no official reaction from the Libyan government.

The government news agency JANA reported demonstrations against the sanctions in four Libyan cities, which it said all ended with telegrams of support being sent to Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi.

Students who demonstrated at Benghazi University sent a message addressing Col. Qadhafi as a giant in an Arab World. JANA said demonstrators in the town of Al Sahel announced they were "awaiting the order to die" to defend Libya.

The news agency has been reporting almost daily protests against the sanctions since they were adopted by the U.N. Security Council on Nov. 11.

In one of these protests, it said, one million people attended a rally at which Col. Qadhafi vowed not to hand over the suspects and threatened to set the country's oil wells afire.

The new sanctions, which freeze Libyan assets abroad and ban sales of some oil equipment to the country, were approved in a resolution proposed the United States, Britain and France.

The Security Council adopted the new sanctions

Nov. 11, but it gave Libya a grace period until they went into effect on Wednesday at 12:01 a.m. EST (0501 GMT).

The sanctions freeze Libya's financial assets abroad but exclude future funds derived from oil, natural gas or agricultural commodities exports.

The resolution also prohibits the sale of oil-related equipment for refineries and for transporting oil and gives a detailed list of this equipment. But the list excludes production equipment Libya uses to drill for oil.

Libya has been under U.N. sanctions since April 1992 that ban all civilian flights to and from the country and the sales of aircraft parts and arms.

But the measures can be suspended if Libya surrenders the two accused for trial in Britain or the United States in connection with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

Libya also must satisfy demands of a French magistrate investigating the mid-flight bombing of France's UTA Flight 772 over Niger in 1989 which 171 people died.

To date there has been no visible sign from Libya that it would surrender the Lockerbie suspects. Abdel Basset Ali Mohammad Al Megrahi and Al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah, alleged by Washington and London to have been intelligence agents, Libya denies the charge.

But Libya, in a letter released Tuesday, wrote to

France asking for an urgent meeting to set up a date for the French magistrate to come to Tripoli and continue his inquiry.

"Should the inquiries result in demonstrating that it is essential for the two suspects to appear before a court, the Libyan authorities would have no objection to them doing so," the letter said. It did not specify the court.

There was no immediate response from French officials, but other diplomats close to the case said they hoped some progress would be made on the UTA bombing.

Otherwise, they said Libya might not even consider handing over the Lockerbie suspects for fear sanctions would remain in place because of the French case.

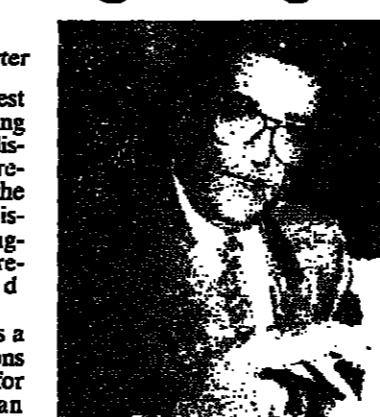
The sanctions have been crafted to avoid shutting down Libya's oil industry, the country's lifeline.

But Libya says its economy has been seriously damaged by the current sanctions with rising unemployment and a postponement in major construction works. It fears its oil industry might deteriorate for lack of some spare parts banned under the new embargoes.

The latest U.N. action already has been criticised by families of victims in the Lockerbie bombing, who say the only restriction that would be effective would be blocking Libyan oil exports, which earn about \$9 billion a year.



SCENE OF ATTACK: Israeli soldiers watch the town of El Bireh in the occupied West Bank (AFP photo)



Marwan Duddin

## Jordan's quest for compensation has no bearing on rights of refugees

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's quest for compensation for hosting Palestinian refugees and displaced persons bears no prejudice on the rights of the individual refugee or displaced person, the Kingdom's top negotiator on refugee affairs said Wednesday.

By including this issue as a major topic for negotiations in the Sept. 14 agenda for peace talks that Jordan signed with Israel, the Kingdom has turned a major turning point, said Marwan Duddin, who also heads Jordan's team to talks on regional economic cooperation.

Mr. Duddin, considered a veteran in Palestinian affairs in view of his close involvement with the occupied territories in his capacity as a member of the cabinet in 1980s, said that Israel has not been "showing its clear intentions" during the past several rounds of talks on refugees in the multilateral phase of the peace process.

"We always got a feeling that Israel is taking us through circles, without committing itself to serious discussion on the subject," said Dr. Duddin.

By including the issue as a negotiating point in the common agenda, Jordan's hand is strengthened on several counts, he said.

These included, he said, Israel's acceptance of the fact that the problem exists and needs to be resolved and the freedom that has been given to Jordan to raise the issue with no overlaps from other spheres of the broader issue of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons hosted by other Arab countries.

"Jordan's demand is for compensation from Israel for hosting the 1.7 million to 1.8 million Palestinian refugees and displaced persons who now live in Jordanian territory," said Dr. Duddin.

The demand for compensation to the state does not prejudice or has any bearing on the individual right of the refugee or displaced person to claim his or her right to return or to receive compensation," he pointed out.

Within the Jordanian context, he said, "the refugees and displaced persons ended up in Jordan as a result of the creation of the state of Israel," and, as such, the Jewish state bears a direct responsibility to compensate Jordan for having hosted them.

Dr. Duddin said close to one million of the 1.8 million Palestinian refugees and displaced persons living in Jordan were classified as 1948 refugees. Of the 700,000 to

800,000 others, half of them were also "refugees" since they were already displaced from their homes in Palestine in 1948 and were living in refugee camps in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip when they were forced out again in the 1967 war. The rest comes under the category of "displaced persons" since they had left their homes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967.

In the overall peace process, Jordan is the only party that will be negotiating the issue of refugees and displaced persons with Israel in the immediate term.

The Sept. 13 agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) stipulates that the issue of refugees and displaced persons will be taken up as part of the "final status" negotiations slated for the third year of autonomy.

Documents exchanged during the 12 rounds of bilateral negotiations between Syria and Israel and Lebanon and Syria do not include any reference to the issue of refugees or displaced persons.

Furthermore, Syria and Lebanon are staying away from the multilateral working group on refugees, saying their participation depended on progress in the bilateral track.

"Jordan now finds itself as the sole party which will be taking up such an important issue as refugees with Israel in a bilateral context," noted a senior government official.

"It is not going to be easy, but that is not going to dissuade us from pressing the issue until a just solution is reached," said the official.

Dr. Duddin believes that "there is a pressing need for creative ideas in addressing the issue of refugees in the multilaterals and those ideas have to come from the Arab side."

"We cannot expect the international community, the Europeans or Americans to come up with creative ideas for us," he said. "We have to face the realities on the ground and work out a formula."

He did not elaborate, but the reference appeared to be a call by His Majesty King Hussein that the Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees also grant them nationality without prejudice to their Palestinian identity and their right to return home or receive compensation as individual choice.

The Israeli leader said he came to Europe — he met with the French president and prime minister in Paris before travelling to Rome to consult with the Italian premier and head of state — to try to persuade European leaders to be more accommodating to Israeli industrial and economic products.

## 1 sentenced to death for Foda murder

KAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt's state security court condemned a man to death on Wednesday for killing writer Farag Foda, an outspoken critic of fundamentalism.

There was uproar in the court as the sentence on Abdul Sharif Ahmad Ramadan was read out.

His relatives, many of them veiled women, screamed and shouted while his fellow defendants chanted "Allahu Akbar" from the dock.

Mr. Ramadan was the chief accused of 12 militants on trial for killing Mr. Foda, who was gunned down as he left his Cairo house with his son on June 7, 1992.

The court postponed sentencing of the others, two of whom are on the run, until Dec. 30.

A lawyer for the fundamentalists, Abdul Halim Mandur, shouted after the verdict was given that "the Sharia (Islamic law) authorises the

"This is a death sentence. The sentence is wrong, wrong, wrong. It is unjust, unjust, unjust. I will appeal against it. This sentence is against Islamic law," Mr. Mandur said.

## Aideed rejects call for reconciliation dialogue

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Power Somali faction leader Mohammad Farah Aideed

Wednesday rejected a last-minute appeal to attend talks in Ethiopia with his arch rival to try to bring peace to shattered Somalia.

His refusal, announced by one of his allies, threatened to undermine a separate U.N. conference hosted by Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi aimed at getting relief work back on track after a four-month guerrilla war in Somalia.

Lawyers said this phrase meant the death sentence. The mufti is the highest religious authority in Egypt and has to be consulted about death sentences by civil courts.

"This is a death sentence. The sentence is wrong, wrong, wrong. It is unjust, unjust, unjust. I will appeal against it. This sentence is against Islamic law," Mr. Mandur said.

Gen. Aideed's Somali National Alliance said there was no need for its leader to attend a meeting with 12 other factions led by Mr. Ali Mahdi.

## Rabin gets good start on EC deal

BRUSSELS (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin paid his first official visit to the European Community (EC) headquarters Wednesday and won support to renegotiate a 1975 cooperation agreement with the 12-member bloc.

Mr. Rabin, who began his two-day visit with meetings with Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene and Foreign Minister Willy Claes, said Israel hoped to boost its industry and agriculture through a new EC trade deal.

Mr. Claes said he hoped that over the next few days the EC would agree to a mandate to renegotiate the 1975 accord. Belgium currently holds the EC presidency.

The EC is doing all that it can to help the Palestinians... and we are ready to enhance our relations with Israel," Mr. Claes said.

Mr. Rabin condemned the killing by Palestinians on Wednesday of an Israeli woman and the wounding of three other civilians on a road in the West Bank.

"It is unfortunate, a tragic event. I believe this vicious circle of terror was originated by Palestinian extremist organisations like the Hamas and Islamic Jihad," Mr. Rabin told reporters after meeting Mr. Claes.

Mr. Rabin has called the accord with the EC discriminatory, saying it had worsened Israel's trade deficit with the community. Last year, the deficit reached \$5 billion.

Besides improving agriculture and industry links, Israel would also like to forge stronger scientific ties.

The pact that Israel had made several steps forward in the peace process should expedite negotiations towards signing a new agreement," an Israeli diplomatic source said.

Describing the 1975 agreement as a "first generation accord," the diplomat said Israel was looking to include more agricultural and industrial products to sell to the EC.

During his visit, Mr. Rabin was to meet European Commission President Jacques Delors and address the European Parliament on the Middle East peace process.

**Italian questions**

With neo-fascists, including a granddaughter of Benito Mussolini, running in key mayor's races in Italy, Mr. Rabin had a message Tuesday for Europeans: Remember history.

The Israeli premier declined to pass judgment when an Italian newspaper reporter asked him his opinion about mayoral runoffs Dec. 5.

In both Rome and Naples, neo-fascist candidates have made it into the runoffs. Alessandra Mussolini, granddaughter of the late fascist dictator whose regime included anti-Jewish laws, is pitted against a leftist candidate in the Naples race. In the Italian capital, the national leader of the neo-fascist Italian social movement, Gianfranco Fini, running against a leftist-backed environmentalist.

Mr. Rabin, while saying it would be inappropriate to comment on the races, told reporters at a news conference: "I believe many people in Europe should not forget the past."

The Israeli leader said he came to Europe — he met with the French president and prime minister in Paris before travelling to Rome to consult with the Italian premier and head of state — to try to persuade European leaders to be more accommodating to Israeli industrial and economic products.

## COLUMN

### Sympathetic banker lends small sums

WASHINGTON (AP) — Would most bankers hunt down a missing husband or console a customer over the death of a cow? Muhammad Yunus thinks they should. Mr. Yunus started the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh in 1976 and has since spread the idea of tiny loans in a dozen countries.

On Tuesday, he accepted a grant of \$2 million from the World Bank, the world's biggest lender, so he can spread his grassroots lending ideas even further. "Please never get angry with the person who cannot pay the installment," "When you get the full story, you'll find out how stupid it would have been to twist her arm to get the money. She can't pay the installment because her husband ran away with the money. As a good friend, your responsibility will be to go and find her husband and bring him back, hopefully with the money... It may also happen that your friend could not pay the installments because the cow which she bought with the loan money died... You should cheer her up and prepare her to pull herself together. Ask Grameen to give her another loan, and convert the previous loan into a long-term loan."

### New Zealander to head Eton

ETON, England (AFP) — The head of an Australian boarding school once attended by Prince of Wales will be the next headmaster of one of the world's most famous boy schools, Eton College. New Zealander John Lewis, headmaster of Geelong Grammar School for 13 years, will take over at Eton next fall, the school announced Tuesday. 1966, a 17-year-old Prince Charles spent two terms at the timber branch of Geelong in the mountains 135 miles north-east of Melbourne. Few at Eton, attended by more than 1,250 boys aged 13-18, almost £12,000 (\$18,000) a year.

### U.S. Navy tells women sailors to wear trousers

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The navy will order its women sailors to don trousers or board all ships, making skirt acceptable attire only at ceremonial events, a spokesman said. The decision to cover up was made "for reasons of safety" by the chief of naval operations, Admiral Frank Kelso, as part of a package of uniform revisions, said Lieutenant Dan Bates, a bureau of naval personnel spokesman. "It really isn't practical for skirts to be worn" when steep ladders serve as ships' stairwells, or when firefighting equipment might need to be hauled out in a hurry, Lt. Bates said.

### Russia pensioner casts first reported vote

MOSCOW (AP) — Two weeks before a referendum on whether to approve Russia's draft constitution, the yes were ahead 1-0. Pyotr Pavlov, a 68-year-old pensioner in the western town of Bryansk, cast his vote early because medical reasons will keep him from voting on election day, Dec. 12, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. It was the first vote reported cast in the election, which also will decide a new parliament. Mr. Pavlov told reporters he voted in favour of the constitution proposed by President Boris Yeltsin. ITAR-TASS said the agency didn't say which candidate and party got Pavlov's vote in the parliamentary contest.

### Man linked with Duchess of York marries

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP) — A man photographed last year with the Duchess of York, leading to speculation about a romantic involvement, has married a Virginia state official. Steve Wyatt was married on Oct. 16 to Cathleen Magennis, Virginia's secretary for economic development. Ms. Magennis said Monday, British press published the photos of Mr. Wyatt and Sarah Ferguson together on a swing, and some tabloids suggested the Texas native was romantically involved with the Duchess of York, estranged wife of Prince Andrew.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israel regarded as nuclear armed

WASHINGTON (R) — Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director James Woolsey acknowledged Tuesday night that Israel was generally regarded as having a nuclear weapons capability, despite its stated policy of not being the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Israeli-Arab conflict. "Israel is generally regarded as having some kind of a nuclear capability," he said in an interview on the CNN programme "Larry King Live." Mr. Woolsey, an expert on nuclear weapons strategy, did not elaborate, but referred to Israel, along with India and Pakistan, as among suspected nuclear states.

### Bahrain underground water may run out

MANAMA (R) — A Bahraini official has warned that the country's underground water reservoir could run out and has urged urgent steps to resolve the problem. Works Electricity and Water Ministry Under-Secretary Jamil Al Alawi said in remarks published in Bahrain's Al Ayam newspaper Tuesday that the island had lost 30 per cent of its underground reservoir in recent years. "The water situation in the country is serious and needs urgent steps to protect the water resources from running out," Mr. Al Alawi said, adding that Bahrain was working on an emergency plan to resolve the problem.

### Dangerous ammunition exploded in Kabul

KABUL (AFP) — A giant mushroom cloud erupted high into the air over south Kabul Wednesday when 4,000 kilograms of unsafe ammunition was exploded by an expert working under contract to the United Nations. The four tonnes of live ammunition included more than 150 mortar bombs, over 80 heavy-artillery shells, 60 anti-aircraft rounds, 55 tank shells, one long-range rocket and a host of fuses and other killing devices found in and around Kabul last month alone. The ammunition was collected by Peter Jaworski, an ex-British army officer now working under contract to the U.N. in Afghanistan.

### Japan reportedly pressures Iran

TOKYO (AP) — Japan has threatened to suspend loans to Iran if it participates in testing North Korean missiles, a Japanese newspaper reported Wednesday. It was the first item that the Japanese government applied "diplomatic pressures" on Iran in connection with North Korean missile development, the Tokyo Shimbun said. A Foreign Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the ministry is investigating the report. The newspaper, quoting unnamed government sources, reported North Korea is planning to test a new "Rodong-1" missile in Iran sometime in December. The report did not specify when Japan requested Iran to cancel the missile-launching test.</